Bet on Alan Levitt | Painting history at Pimlico | Delgado starts fast at Monmouth

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 29, Issue 8
AUGUST 2021

Made in Camden

Star filly Malathaat learned early lessons with Kahkola Racing

Traditions

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Record Setters. Virginia-bred Thrice Worthy (with John Cushman up) set the modern-day record for consecutive hurdle wins in North America at nine in the 1980s. Snap Decision tied the mark by winning the Iroquois in May. **Page 44**

In this issue

Kahkola carves niche with young horses

South Carolina-based horseman Kevin Kahkola, whose first racing job was at Michigan's Detroit Race Course, builds a breaking/training business at Camden Training Center and sees Malathaat become a Kentucky Oaks winner. By Joe Clancy. Page 16

Preakness weathervane painters carry on tradition

Dick Hageman succeeds Lawrence Jones on the lift and with the paintbrushes as Pimlico maintains its long tradition of showcasing the Preakness winner on the historic clubhouse weathervane now part of the infield. By Sara Gordon. Page 20

Levitt bets on himself, eyes national contest

Baltimore horseplayer Alan Levitt is one of the top names on the national handicapping contest stage and eyes title in Las Vegas this month. By Paul Halloran. Page 24

Snap Decision ties record in Iroquois

Rising steeplechase star Snap Decision continues his ascension with a Grade 1 victory in the Iroquois Steeplechase, tying Thrice Worthy's mark with nine consecutive hurdle scores. By Sean Clancy. Page 44

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Cover: Kentucky Oaks-G1 winner Malathaat, who learned her early lessons with Kevin Kahkola in Camden, S.C., steps over the track at Churchill Downs in April. Photo by Eclipse Sportswire.

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Maryland-Breds

Weekly Entries & Results
Alpha–by Horse, by Breeder, by Stallion

Maryland Sires

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Today's Entries • Yesterday's Results
Runners by Year Listings

On our home page, the top pull-down menu for Stallions, you will now find Progeny entries/results. Listed are all of the day's entries for Maryland-sired runners, the previous day's results, and a Statistics button that allows you to sort by stallion name to view results by year (2020-2017). This is for current active stallions registered in the Maryland Fund program. We have also added a feature under the MD Breds tab that lists a week's worth of entries/results of Maryland-bred runners.

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 29, Issue 8

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6
6
DELAWAR

POST TIME

WAGON TRAIN. Budding star Chub Wagon eyed the competition in the Delaware Park paddock before winning the Dashing Beauty Stakes—her eighth career triumph in as many starts—July 10. Lydia A. Williams

Say It Again

"We don't always enjoy 25 degrees in the morning, but they do. The horses love that."
Trainer Kevin Kahkola, comparing human and equine reactions to chilly winter mornings in Camden, S.C.

"The horses I brought out of there are one thing, but the greatest trainer ever–Frank Whiteley–think of what he brought out of there. You can start with Ruffian."
Trainer Neil Howard, about Camden as a proving ground for young horses

"I wish we could have a whole barn like that."
Assistant trainer Hilary Pridham, about graded stakes winner Micheline's open-air stall at Fair Hill Training Center

"One turned to two, two turned to three, three turned to five and five turned to seven. We have seven broodmares now."
Maryland owner/breeder Nick Beaver, on how the Bell Gable Stable breeding program came to be

"I keep seeing that round barn and wondering if they'd let me lease that for the winter."
Trainer Gary Contessa, about the old Brandywine Stable facility (and its indoor track) next to Delaware Park; Brandywine was home to Preakness winner Greek Money, champion Open Fire and other stars

"You smooch to one like that and you're like, 'Don't smooch again.' She was fast. Really fast."
Trainer Matt Hebert, former exercise rider for champion female sprinter Groupie Doll

JACK DEWILL

The old Brandywine Stable facility, here in 1975, lies empty in this day and age.

LICENSE PLATE OF THE MONTH

KYDERBY, Delaware.

GO FIGURE

111 Horses entered for the nine-race Opening Day card at Colonial Downs July 19.

5 Times Maryland Brando has bitten owner Nick Beaver. Beaver will take the bruises. The 2-year-old colt, a Maryland-bred purchased at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic as a yearling, won his debut at Delaware Park in June and started in Saratoga's historic Sanford Stakes-G3 in July in his second start.

12 Firsts, seconds and thirds by horses trained at Fair Hill Training Center July 5-11. The triple dozen came from 68 starts.

NAMES OF THE MONTH

City Plan. The 6-year-old gelding, third at Penn National in July and a winner at Mountaineer in May, is by Street Sense out of Interior Design.

Ludicrous Mode. Owned and co-bred by Patricia Beck, the Maryland-bred is by Bullet Train (GB). If you drive a Tesla, or have watched the 1987 Mel Brooks movie *Spaceballs*, you know that Ludicrous Mode is a high-performance speed setting. The horse, a 4-year-old gelding, won at Penn National going 1½ miles on the dirt July 9.

Office Etiquette. Owner/trainer John Stephens' 2-year-old filly is by Fed Biz out of Table Manners.

MILESTONES

Increased: By 15 percent for the remainder of 2021, overnight purses in Maryland. The increase, effective July 2, was approved by the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association board of directors and will impact racing at Pimlico Race Course, Laurel Park and the Maryland State Fair meet at Timonium.

Passed: The United States House of Representatives, an amendment to the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act banning the transportation of horses across state lines or to Canada or Mexico for slaughter for human consumption. The amendment, which would effectively ban horse slaughter in the United States if it becomes law, was sponsored in the House by Troy Carter (D-LA), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and John Katko (R-NY). The amendment was supported by a number of Thoroughbred industry organizations, including the National Thoroughbred Racing Association. The NTRA will advocate for the inclusion of this amendment as part of any final infrastructure bill passed by Congress.

Increased: Purses at Monmouth Park. Starting with the July 17 card, maiden special weight races and allowance races saw a purse increase of 20 percent, with claiming races over $12,500 getting a 10 percent increase and claimers that go for $12,500 or less having a five percent increase. Purses for all non-state bred stakes races that were $75,000 were upped to $100,000 while $75,000 Jersey-bred stakes were increased to $85,000. The track also added three live racing days on Fridays in September.

Offered: Horsemen U, an online continuing education platform for trainers and assistant trainers, by Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, California Thoroughbred Trainers and New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. Horsemen U offers approved online webinars and issues certificates after a course and a short quiz have been completed. Trainers and assistant trainers can register, free of charge, and maintain records in their accounts. All licensed trainers and assistant trainers in the United States are eligible to register for a Horsemen U account. There are 12 webinars offered. The webinars have been hosted by the California Horse Racing Board, the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation's Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit and the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. "Schedules can't

Nine Straight
Snap Decision's Grade 1 Iroquois victory on June 26 was his ninth straight victory over brush for trainer Jack Fisher and owner Bruton Street-US. Ride on!
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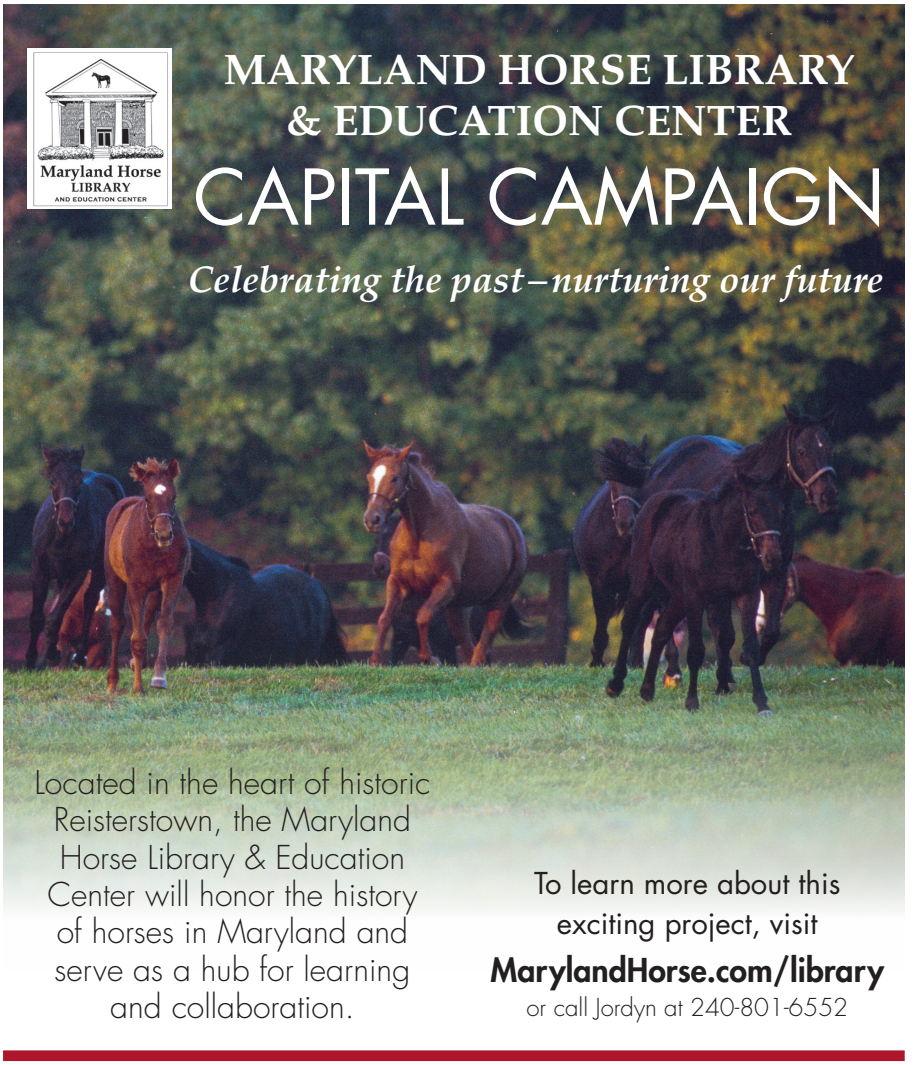
MILESTONES

always be adjusted to make room for the live webinars, so it is important to have online options as well," MTHA President Tim Keefe said. "Horsemen U also provides storage for the CE certificates earned on the site, so the trainers have less paperwork to keep track of. We want to make the process of meeting the CE requirements for our horsemen as seamless as possible." See horsemenu.com for more.

Received: The Virgil "Buddy" Raines Distinguished Achievement Award, Monmouth Park general manager Bill Anderson. The award is presented annually prior to Monmouth's season opener, and Anderson, a former trainer and track superintendent at the track, joins a prominent list of Raines Award recipients who have been recognized for professionalism, integrity and service to Thoroughbred racing. "It's a great honor and it's especially meaningful for me because I know or knew everyone who has received this award, including Buddy Raines," said Anderson. "Monmouth Park is my home and has been for quite a while now. So it means a lot to me personally to receive this award." Previous Raines Award winners in its 26-year history include Warren A. "Jimmy" Croll Jr., J. Willard Thompson, Danny Perlsweig, Ben Perkins Sr., John Forbes and Dennis Drazin.

Won: The 2021 George Brown Bowl as the horse judged to have had the best performances in sanctioned races during Maryland's spring timber season, Vintage Vinnie (Ire). Owned by Armata Stable and trained by Joe Davies, the 12-year-old won the My Lady's Manor and Maryland Hunt Cup timber stakes (the first horse to do so in the same year since 1988). Vintage Vinnie, a son of Irish-breds Vinnie Roe and the Bob's Return mare Bobby's Jet, was bred in Ireland by Carmel Hennessy and imported by Davies and Armata in 2017. The dark bay made his timber debut the following spring. He set a course record in winning the Hunt Cup, in a start-to-finish romp. George Brown was a Maryland sportsman of the late 1800s and early 1900s. He rode in the Maryland Hunt Cup 14 times over 28 years, winning in 1900 and 1916. He was also a Master of the Green Spring Valley Hounds and a professional steward at racetracks in Maryland, Delaware and Florida.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THE RACING BIZ

The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

Higgs finds (brief) spotlight: "Pony girl" Christine Higgs isn't much used to the spotlight, but she grabbed national attention at the Preakness when she helped calm an antsy Rombauer, writes Teresa Genaro.

The farewells of Dinosaur Ben: To his humans, Dinosaur Ben wasn't just another horse. That's why saying goodbye–twice, in a sense–was so hard. Genaro tells his story.

MD Racing Commission waives Amicar penalties: Frank Vespe reports on the Maryland Racing Commission voting to waive penalties that typically include disqualifications in the case of Amicar positives through Aug. 1.

"End of an Era" for Arabian racing at Delaware: The Eastern Arabian Racing Alliance announced that the 2021 Arabian racing season at Delaware Park was over, a victim of too few owners and horses, reports Vespe.

Golden Key unlocking productive season: Although he didn't make the races until late January, Golden Key is making up for lost time. In late June he won his third straight at Charles Town, and fifth of seven starts, reports Ted Black.

Backtracks–What a Summer, what a horse: Jennifer Kelly's historic look back is Maryland-bred What a Summer, who took on all comers en route to an Eclipse Award as champion sprinter in 1977.

Backtracks–Mongo and Marion: Another Kelly historic piece showcases Marion duPont Scott's Virginia-bred Mongo, the 1963 champion grass horse.

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

MARYLAND RACING COMMISSION
300 East Towsontown Boulevard
Towson, MD 21286

June 30, 2021

Dear MHBA Breeder/Owner Members:

Yesterday, the Maryland Racing Commission approved a plan to return the Breeder Bonuses to 30% and Stallion Bonuses 10% and stakes bonuses for Breeders and Stallions to 15% and 5% beginning July 1, 2021. After evaluating the current positive revenue streams to the Maryland Bred Race Fund it was determined the program is in a position to return to the percentages that were in place before the uncertainty created by COVID-19.

For the remainder of 2021, Breeder, Stallion and Stakes Bonuses will be in place as outlined above. These percentages are based on current financial projections and are subject to change in the event revenue sources decline for any reason.

The Maryland Racing Commission will continue to monitor the revenue streams to the Maryland Bred Race Fund on a monthly basis. The Maryland Horse Breeders Association will distribute Breeder and Stallion Bonus checks after Industrial Laboratories notifies the State Stewards the races have cleared testing procedures. Checks will be distributed on a monthly basis.

As you know the fiscal future of our industry depends on our ability to continue with live racing, the simulcast of our signal and commissions from the VLTs.

Stay safe and healthy.

Regards,

David Hayden

Maryland Racing Commission

Chair, Maryland Bred Race Fund Advisory Committee

Master Manipulator

MAGGIE KIMMITT

Eleven years ago, Patty Clemens bought her husband a horse. Then she decided to keep it for herself. OK, so that's not entirely accurate; it's the quick and dirty version. But the "husband horse" Clemens first spotted in a shabby stock trailer outside the New Holland auction morphed from a trail-riding buddy for her husband Mike into her own much-loved and trusted eventing partner.

The former Patty Pirhalla, now 62, grew up in Fairfax, Va. When she was 11, her family moved into a new home in a subdivision right beside a riding academy.

"I just begged and begged for my parents to sign me up for lessons," she said. "I signed up our first summer there, and then went back again the next summer. We were able to lease a pony, which we eventually bought. And of course that led to my first horse, who became the love of my life."

Clemens showed and foxhunted throughout her teen years, riding out with the Bull Run Hunt Club near Manassas, Va. She reluctantly sold that horse, Drum, before leaving for college. Career and family followed.

"My husband, Mike, was in management with the FBI, so we moved around a good bit. Our two boys played baseball and our daughter did a little bit of riding, but she wasn't as fanatical as I was so it just never worked out for me to have a horse while we were raising our family. Then when my husband retired from the FBI—we were in the Washington area—he said he wanted to take a job that he knew was coming available with DuPont. He said, 'We'll get a small farm and you can have horses again.' And I was like 'Sure! Take that job!'"

The family bought a 5-acre farmette in Oxford, Pa. Clemens quickly involved herself with MidAtlantic Horse Rescue, founded by Bev Strauss and Ginny Suarez. She traveled with Strauss most Mondays to the livestock auction in New Holland, Pa. It was on one such trip that Clemens first spotted Master Manipulator. Strauss usually connected with one of the horse dealers who frequented the sale.

"I remember the day she bought him. This dealer would call Bev whenever he was heading to the sale. She would meet him there, and she got to look them over before they even went into the auction. We met him in the back parking lot, and he was there in this rusting-out trailer that didn't look safe for any animal to be on. And I couldn't forget the look in his eye—he was just terrified."

It's not too hard to figure out how the horse got there. The dealer lived near Penn National, the site of the 5-year-old dark bay gelding's final race Nov. 27, 2010. He finished last, running for a $4,000 claiming tag.

Bred in Kentucky by James T. Hines Jr., Master Manipulator was foaled April 13, 2005. His sire, Milwaukee Brew, was a multiple graded stakes winner bred by then perennial leading owner Adena Springs. Master Manipulator's dam was the unraced Dawn Jones, a daughter of French star *Grey Dawn II. Hines' estate offered the colt at the 2006 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky fall yearling sale, where he was purchased for $2,500 by Robert Tiller. Master Manipulator spent his first two seasons running in lower-level claiming races at Woodbine in 2008 and 2009, changing hands from owner/trainer Tiller to trainer Scott Fairlie, who owned him with several partners. From Woodbine, the horse went to Fort Erie for two starts before heading south to Philadelphia Park in December 2009.

His form is best described as inconsistent. He'd finish up the track, or mid-pack, and occasionally produce a winning effort. From Fairlie's barn,

Master Manipulator went to trainer Alan Bedard and owner Frances Mercedes. After four dismal efforts at Philadelphia Park and Delaware Park, he ended up in the race at Penn National. His statistics after that final start were 29-4-7-1 with $76,197 earned.

His luck changed when Strauss and Clemens met the ramshackle trailer outside the New Holland auction that day. He was shipped to the MAHR farm in Chesapeake City, Md., for quarantine before beginning the re-homing process.

Clemens already had an MAHR graduate at home. Florida-bred Highest Value won 13 races and $159,591. Still, Master Manipulator stuck in her mind. Strauss told Clemens he was "the perfect husband horse," encouraging her to consider taking him for Mike to hack out and trail ride.

"I said to Mike that I thought if we didn't get him someone else would. I hadn't really been thinking of him for us. He was big–16.3–and I still had Highest so I wasn't thinking of a horse for myself."

Mike had ridden a bit as a child but hadn't been on a horse in many years, so it wasn't a very natural endeavor for him as an older adult.

"I thought he would do more riding than he did," Clemens said. "But Moose [as Master Manipulator was re-christened] was so good–here was this 5-year-old Thoroughbred that I put my husband on."

Highest Value's stifle issues–he made 75 starts and raced until he was 10–soon necessitated his retirement. Mike's trail horse came out of the bullpen and became his wife's starting pitcher.

Clemens was–and is–smitten. The young horse was unflappable, reliable, and endlessly kind.

"He's just been such a good guy. I can put the grandkids on him when they come to visit. He loves the cross-country part of eventing; that's his best phase. When we get out there, he takes me right to anything I point him at. We just do starters and the beginner novice level."

When Clemens read a press release for the 2021 Real Rider Cup charity fundraising competition, she knew it was right in their wheelhouse.

"I thought OK, that's right in our comfort zone. There wasn't anything that I didn't feel uncomfortable with. I wanted to do something that was a little different, and I knew our vet, Kathy Anderson, had done it the first year. The fences were perfect for what we're used to jumping, and I could wear Bev's silks. So I thought we should give it a shot."

They gave it a shot, all right. Clemens and Master Manipulator finished second in the overall voting and raised $1,525 for Thoroughbred aftercare. And Clemens is already looking forward to 2022; she's hoping to encourage other riders of MAHR graduates to sign up and form a team for next year.

In addition to Master Manipulator, Clemens has adopted two more horses from the rescue: Battle Tested and Defense Article. She rode both in the Retired Racehorse Project in 2019.

It's clear, though, that the laid-back Master Manipulator is the alpha horse in her eyes.

"I'm so glad Mike didn't really take up riding again, because Moose has become such a great eventing partner. He's so kind and generous. He's just so sweet. . . so sweet." ✹

Exposure

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TOD MARKS

American-breds can win major jump races too

Dear steeplechase owners and trainers, you've been doing it wrong. Hit the rewind button. Start over. Go back to the proverbial drawing board.

And get a new horse. A horse like Snap Decision.

For most of its history, America's jumping sport relied on Thoroughbreds who—for one reason or another—didn't make it on the flat track. They weren't fast enough to be stakes horses. Their pedigrees went a bit too far on the stamina side. They weren't necessarily motivated to try their hardest until somebody put some obstacles in the way. Farm life suited them better than racetrack life. Something, somewhere, somehow clicked when they shifted gears and tried something new.

For proof I give you Good Night Shirt, McDynamo, Flat Top, Lonesome Glory and Flatterer—the last five truly great American steeplechasers (sorry everybody else going back to the mid-1980s). Four are in the Hall of Fame, with only Flat Top missing out on that honor because soundness issues shortened his career. All tried flat racing to one extent or another. Good Night Shirt won twice. Same with McDynamo. Flat Top only ran three times, and didn't get close. Lonesome Glory never did start from a gate, but he was headed that way for a time. Flatterer, the only one of the bunch to race for his breeders, collected four wins before trying jumps for the first time.

Combined, they won 16 Eclipse Awards and earned $4,295,858 racing in the U.S. over fences. Trainers used to scout for such horses, and buy them as prospects. They used to develop them. They used to succeed with them. Then everything changed. Flat owners and trainers grew reluctant to sell, dreaming of big purses even for lower-level horses. Jump owners and trainers wanted a faster process, and looked abroad to England and Ireland (mainly) for ready-made horses. They are bred, schooled, prepped, pointed and raced in a healthy, productive jump-racing industry. Foreign trainers, agents and sales companies were happy to source horses—there are thousands in the game, with more on the way all the time, and purses (on an individual race basis) are comparatively weak. Selling makes sense. Also partly fueled by the American use of anti-bleeding medication Lasix, the shift brought horses with form to American jump racing and resulted in six foreign-bred champions from 2015-20.

None turned out to be truly great. All missed time with injuries. And of that group of six, three are retired, one is a timber horse and two are on the shelf with injuries.

And now we have Snap Decision, an old-fashioned American steeplechaser in a new time who just might start changing minds. He was bred by the Phipps Stable, whose connection to jump racing goes way back to the heyday of stars owned by Mrs. Ogden Phipps and trained by Mikey Smithwick and Pete Bostwick. The old rose silks won championships with Straight and True, Top Bid, Mako, Ancestor, Neji and Oedipus. All were bred in America. All raced on the flat (Straight and True in France).

Snap Decision won twice on the flat for trainer Shug McGaughey, made a few stakes starts and even traded jabs with future Horse of the Year Bricks and Mortar before leveling off and losing 11 consecutive starts from August 2017 to November 2018. Scouting for horses sired by Hard Spun because of some success with timber horse Doc Cebu, steeplechase owner Charlie Fenwick saw Snap Decision and made an offer. Phipps and McGaughey said OK. The $75,000 price tag wasn't cheap, but it certainly fit with what American owners pay for English and Irish horses with form.

Racing for the Bruton Street-US partnership of Fenwick, Mike Hankin and Charlie Noell, Snap Decision finished second in his first two hurdle starts in spring 2019. He hasn't lost since—rattling off nine in a row and piling up $368,400 in steeplechase earnings (nearly double his flat earnings by the way). In June, the 7-year-old tied Thrice Worthy's modern-day record for consecutive American steeplechase victories with a facile triumph in the Grade 1 Iroquois. The field of six included horses bred in England, Ireland and France, all imported with jump form and none as good as the lone American-bred who galloped away from them.

The field behind him, other than Irish star Footpad (who fell) would never be confused with superstars but that's not Snap Decision's fault. He can only outrun those lined up against him and he's beaten everyone over parts of three seasons. Faced with the task of tackling handicap conditions (and a likely weight assignment of 165 pounds or more) at Saratoga, trainer Jack Fisher opted for a freshening with October's weight-for-age American Grand National the ultimate target. Irish and English raiders (so not even horses American owners imported) have won the last two runnings of the Grade 1, with foreign-breds taking four of the last five, and new ones will likely return this year.

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Horse Sense

South Carolina's Kahkola finds success with Oaks winner Malathaat, others

By Joe Clancy

Trainer Neil Howard talked about former assistant Kevin Kahkola's horsemanship, work ethic, professionalism and skill with young horses–and then went another direction.

"He's got this quiet way about him, but his sense of humor is unlimited," Howard said. "If you get him alone, he'd probably kill me for telling you this, but he can do people's voices. It sounds just like the other person, not Kevin, where if you couldn't see his face you'd think it was that person."

With a lead-in like that, there's only one question to ask Kahkola. Can he do Howard?

"Now Joe . . . Joe . . . This is embarrassing . . ." said Kahkola through the phone–sounding every bit like his former boss, a native New Yorker who has lived in Kentucky for decades. "It looks like Beulah Park around here . . . That's it, that's it, it's all in the hands of Philistines now."

You could almost see Howard, hands waving, eyebrows dancing, growing ever more exasperated as he tried to make his point. And then Kahkola started laughing. All in fun, and part of life in a barn, the impersonations would have helped deal with the long hours, the pressure of caring for top-class horses, the personalities involved.

"I did a little bit of those around the barn when I worked for Neil," said Kahkola. "A couple of the hotwalkers and people around the barn, for fun, we'd do stuff like that. We had some characters. You could write a book."

Or carve out a career.

Kahkola grew up in Michigan, just outside Detroit in Redford Township. His family watched the Kentucky Derby every year, but the horse interest didn't go much further. He credits 1977 Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew with the proper introduction to racing.

"I was 9 years old, I liked that name I guess," he said. "I watched him win the Derby, then started hearing about this thing called the Preakness and then when he won that we started hearing about the Triple Crown. That's how I got hooked on racing."

And now he's a successful trainer of young horses at Camden Training Center in South Carolina with a resume full of big names and big racetrack performances including 2021 Kentucky Oaks-G1 winner Malathaat and more recent Grade 2 winner Zaajel. They both eyed even more important starts this summer, and can thank Kahkola for the early lessons. He spent 14 years with Howard–working with Horse of the Year Mineshaft among others–and in 2008 was hired to break and train young horses for high-powered Shadwell Stable. That job recently morphed into the creation of Kahkola Racing, a public stable handling breaking, training and other prep work for outside clients in addition to Shadwell.

"They sent me 24 yearlings [last year] and for a public stable that base is important," said Kahkola, whose stall list was up to 32 over the winter. "I'm hoping to pick up some more and hoping to grow."

Now 53, he can thank Seattle Slew and his hometown for the initial racing interest.

Not long after the Triple Crown winner stormed home by 4 lengths in the Belmont Stakes-G1, Kahkola was going to Detroit Race Course and following the sport for real. A high-school teacher, Joe Soukup, used to walk hots at DRC and let Kahkola know that a summer job at the track wasn't that far-fetched.

"Honest to God, I wanted to be a jockey," Kahkola said. "Freshman year of high school, I was 4-foot-11 and a half and I remember thinking, 'I'm going to make this.' I probably grew three inches a year after that and was 5-foot-11 by the time I graduated."

Still, racing was what he wanted to do. After graduating from Redford Union High in 1986, Kahkola spent seven years at his local track–rising from hotwalker to groom to assistant trainer for Greg Sanders and Brenda Hill. Sanders, whose most recognizable trainee was graded stakes winner Glitterman, trained for his family's Sandera Farm–a leading breeder in Michigan–and was always among DRC's leading trainers with a host of Michigan-based standouts. Hill trained Michigan-bred stars Karate Miss and Sefa's Rose among others.

The small-time track, and its people, provided a ready-made course in racing.

"I started out just hotwalking, for a year-and-a-half," Kahkola said. "A guy taught me how to groom, another guy taught me how to put on bandages, they taught me about legs. I groomed for two years, and then was the shed foreman. I took the trainer's test just to get an assistant's license."

Early on, Kahkola was a fan of the Sanders-trained De Jeau, whose 3-year-old season in 1985 started with four consecutive wins, a third in the Michigan Mile and One Eighth-G2, a second in the Omaha Gold Cup-G3 and a win in the Michigan Derby. Sanders-bred on top and bottom, the chestnut was a son of Private Thoughts

(second in the 1977 Marlboro Cup-G1 at Belmont Park) and the Rattle Dancer mare Christi Deddle. A local hero, De Jeau won 16 races–all but one at DRC–and earned $394,997.

"He was a Michigan-bred who was competitive other places too," said Kahkola. "He ran times like the big horses, a mile in 1:35 and change. They didn't see that up there too often. He was a pretty special horse and probably the horse who got me encouraged to go to the racetrack. I did get to work with him, too. I was hotwalking when he was there."

Like plenty of other horsemen, Kahkola credits his early days at a small-time track–far from the spotlight of races like the Kentucky Oaks–with planting a seed.

"I wouldn't trade my days in Detroit for anything," he said. "Sometimes working at smaller tracks and seeing operations do things the way they do them is really important and a good way to learn. When you're working at small tracks, the horses are older, they've got physical ailments, you've got to learn to patch them up and get them back to the races or keep them going. I'm glad I didn't just get born into a top outfit where you're seeing nothing but blueblood horses. I got to see all kinds of horses and operations. You have to think outside the box sometimes."

While at DRC, Kahkola met Howard and his team when the trainer would ship in for stakes races. The Michigan track may have been the minor leagues compared to the trainer's normal stops at Keeneland, Churchill Downs, Saratoga and so on but it was an ideal spot to tackle stakes company with well-bred fillies and mares from Will Farish's powerful Lane's End Farm. When the Howard horses came to town, they typically stayed in the Sanders barn. The young shedrow foreman was impressed.

He didn't know it then, but Kahkola arrived near the end of DRC. Ladbrokes, the English-based bookmaking firm, bought the track with eyes on bringing other forms of gambling to Detroit. It didn't happen, but pressures like a casino in nearby Windsor, Ontario, year-round racing in other states, decreased handle, competition from other states' breeding programs and lower purses conspired to put Michigan racing on the defensive. Kahkola had done enough to consider starting his own training business, but handicapped the race he was about to start.

"Things just started to add up, and racing was struggling a little bit," he said. "People wanted you to take horses on a deal. I couldn't blame them, but I couldn't do that when I was just starting out. Purse

money at Detroit was going down and you could tell it wasn't going to last."

Kahkola saw how difficult it would be, and accepted a job offer from Howard instead, leaving for a spot with the stable at Camden in the winter of 1993 (make your own assessment of the weather differences between the two). Detroit Race Course closed five years later.

Since Howard already had two assistants, Kahkola started as a groom and–like he did in Michigan–worked his way up to foreman and then assistant. Howard's horses spent the winter in Camden then, moving on to Kentucky and New York in the spring. The barn was peppered with major names.

"I was awestruck the first day I walked into the shedrow," Kahkola said. "This horse is by Danzig, this one's by Seattle Slew, this one's by Kingmambo. I was here every winter and would go up in the spring to Churchill, Belmont, Saratoga, Belmont and back to Camden to do the babies."

The Howard barn won the 2000 Kentucky Oaks-G1 with Secret Status, and came up with others such as Grade 1 winners Runup the Colors, Tomisue's Delight, Shadow Cast and America Alive on a long list of quality runners. Kahkola had Mineshaft in New York in 2003 when the 4-year-old reeled off three consecutive Grade 1 wins in the Suburban, Woodward and Jockey Club Gold Cup en route to a seven-win season and Horse of the Year honors.

As Howard put it, Kahkola wasn't just part of the team.

"Kevin, and I don't say this lightly, was a quick study," Howard said. "There was no hesitation on my part when I was able to hire him. A good assistant made a difference and I was lucky to have Kevin and some others who worked for me. Not just their horsemanship skill, they have to have that, but when you're dealing with the stress of the upper-level horses and the everyday problems with emphasis on every day, you had somebody you could talk back and forth with and go over things with. They helped you keep much more relaxed than you normally would be. It makes a difference. Like a baseball manager having a bench coach."

Kahkola soaked up everything he could from a man now in his sixth decade of training. Howard started out riding show horses and found racing while looking for prospects at Waterford Park in West Virginia. He worked for Hall of Famers Woody Stephens and Mack Miller early on, started as a trainer on the Ohio circuit and turned it into 1,253 wins (and counting), a Preakness Stakes-G1 victory with Summer Squall in 1990, that Horse of the Year crown with Mineshaft and a long list of loyal clients.

"He taught me more than anybody I worked for," said Kahkola. "The biggest thing you learn from Neil is the attention to detail. He's meticulous. He doesn't miss a thing. He taught me you've got to have your eyes going all the time. Pay attention to detail. It will matter. He's a really good horseman."

Older brother Ken joined Kevin on the Howard staff for a time and Kevin also met his wife Jennifer while they both worked for Howard. The idea of finding a more permanent home–as opposed to the South Carolina-Kentucky-New York carousel–became a goal as the family grew to include son Brandon and daughter Kirsten. Kahkola left Howard in 2008, the idea being a public stable and a breaking/training business along the lines of Camden horsemen Donna Freyer, Frankie Wooten, Mickey Preger, Kip Elser and others utilizing the area to start young horses and freshen older runners. Shadwell, the powerful racing/breeding program of Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, was there with a private operation headed by Bob Witham.

From his years with Howard, Kahkola had ties to the area and fit right in, even if starting a business came with uncertainty. He wasn't at it long. Witham died in December 2008, after falling from a horse at Camden, and Shadwell needed a replacement. Kahkola was an early call, and he stayed 12 years.

"He's very important to the operation, has always done a great job and he broke a lot of very good horses for us," said Rick Nichols, Shadwell's vice president and general manager. "He was in Camden, had leased a barn [at the training center] and was trying to make it on his own. Bob really liked him, I remember that. It was a tough thing losing Bob that way, but he died doing what he loved."

Witham would appreciate the success of his successor, as Shadwell runners continue to produce on big stages. Mohaymen won his first five in 2015-16, finished fourth in Kentucky Derby-G1 and earned just shy of $1 million, for Kiaran McLaughlin before retiring to the Shadwell stallion barn. His first crop includes six winners, second in the early national standings.

"He was a good-feeling colt, but did everything classy at the track," said Kahkola. "A little playful sometimes, but you could tell he was going to be a good horse. He had a ton of talent."

Shagaf, part of the same crop, won the 2016 Gotham-G3 for trainer Chad Brown and tested Kahkola's skill–and patience.

"I have a little thing for quirky horses, and he was very quirky," said Kahkola. "He got loose seven times down here, he'd just wheel going to the track and be gone. Once you got him on the racetrack though, he was a machine. He'd walk in the starting gate like he'd been doing it his whole life, but he'd see a bag on the horsepath that wasn't there the day before and he'd turn around and run for his life."

Shadwell veteran Almanaar (GB) also frequently jumps into Kahkola's mind when discussing the job. The foal of 2012 raced in France for two seasons before coming to the United States in 2015. After some time on the farm, the horse came to Kahkola in Camden and joined Brown's string in the summer of 2016. He lost twice late that year, but rebounded to win the Gulfstream Park Turf Handicap-G1 in February 2017 before an injury put him back on the farm and eventually with Kahkola. Off nearly 16 months, the son of Dubawi (Ire) returned to win an allowance at Belmont in June 2018 and finished second (beaten a half-length) in the Arlington Million-G1. Almanaar spent the winter of 2018-19 with Kahkola, and set a track record while winning the Monmouth Stakes-G2 in May 2019. He didn't race until that race's 2020 version in October–recuperating and resting on the farm and once again going to Kahkola in Camden–and won again off another nearly 16-month layoff.

"He was a cool horse to be around," said Kahkola. "He won that race again off a big layoff and I was really proud of him. He did everything they asked of him."

Retired to Shadwell's stallion barn–even though he's a gelding–9-year-old Almanaar lives a life horses only dream about.

"Kevin loves Almanaar," said Nichols. "He probably could have brought him back again, but he won [almost] a million dollars and we thought we'd give him the penthouse for his retirement."

The past two years brought change to Shadwell's operation as the private division at Camden was closed in favor of sending young horses to Kahkola and others independently. Sheikh Hamdan died in March, adding further change until an announcement in June put his daughter Sheikha Hissa at the helm of the international operation that includes farms in Kentucky and England.

The changes prompted Kahkola to once again launch that public stable, and he looks to augment the Shadwell base with outside clients.

"When Covid hit and Sheikh Hamdan's health wasn't good, it was a no-brainer that the private operation here was going to have to shut down," said Kahkola. "You have to pay for everything–staff, insurance, everything. Rick was great, he offered me horses on a per-day rate, they split them up obviously and sent some other places but I was happy. The support has been great."

If Shadwell stars Malathaat and Zaajel, two of the top 3-year-old fillies in the country and both in the barn of Todd Pletcher, continue their rise Kahkola's business ought to be booming. The former won three times last year and started 2021 with victories in the Ashland-G1 and Kentucky Oaks-G1. The $1.05 million sales purchase eyed summer starts at Belmont and Saratoga while looking to maintain her unblemished record.

"You could kind of see she wasn't going to be a real early filly, so we took our time," Kahkola said of her days in Camden. "Her first quarter-mile breeze was probably May and she got a shin right away. We eased back, she was telling us she wasn't quite ready yet. It was probably July when she got back up to breezing and getting closer to being ready for a race. She didn't leave here until August. She was always classy, she always did everything right."

The daughter of Curlin won her debut at Belmont in October and closed her 2-year-old season with back-to-back stakes wins.

Zaajel, a homebred daughter of Street Sense and the Daaher mare Asiya, won her debut in December and added the Forward Gal Stakes-G3 in January to briefly get on the Kentucky Oaks path with her stablemate. She lost two stakes starts in March and April (the latter on turf), but rebounded to win the Mother Goose Stakes-G2 at Belmont in late June.

It wasn't quite the Kentucky Oaks, where Kahkola drew laughs from Brandon (14) and Kirstin (16) for cheering so loudly, but any victory matters to someone in the business.

"That's what you work for, watching the final product do that," Kahkola said. "You see them when they come in, sometimes they're just fat, out-of-shape babies, they look like little kids starting kindergarten. It makes you feel like you've accomplished something."

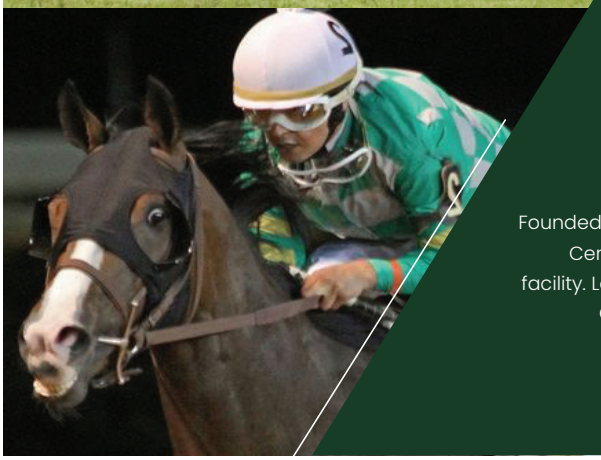
Both fillies benefited from time at Camden, where the weather and the historic facilities manage to create a perfect spot to train Thoroughbred horses–especially young ones on the road to racing careers.

"I love that we have four seasons here, sometimes it's cold in the winter," Kahkola said. "Here it can be cold in the morning and jump 30 degrees by the afternoon. They look healthier, they shed out their coats and just look better."

Kahkola starts most on a 3½-furlong path in the woods. They graduate to the half-mile training track and finally to the main track, where they see more horses, get used to the starting gate and gain enough experience to be ready for the busier atmosphere at a racetrack or bigger training center.

The options are a strength and suit every horse, one way or another.

"It just starts to take shape for them here and they learn what being a racehorse is about," Kahkola said. "If you get one that's a little bit behind you can go back to the smaller track or the woods and do it again. We have some that by March are coming out of their skins and wanting to breeze. And we have others that just need more time. You just go with it. You try to treat every horse differently."



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Passing the paintbrush

Hageman takes on role as Preakness weathervane painter

By Sara Gordon

Nestled between the big screen television and The Stronach Group's tent, the historic horse and rider weathervane sits quietly atop its cupola in the Pimlico Race Course infield. Five feet wide, and made of aluminum, it's coated in 55 years of Preakness history, paying tribute to each winner since 1966 as a replacement for the original. That iron piece lived on top of Pimlico's clubhouse from 1909, when the tradition of painting the winning silks began, until it was damaged when the old clubhouse burned down (don't worry, it's in the track museum).

The tradition carried on with a replica of the cupola in the infield, topped by a weathervane that sits there today, now proudly wearing the pink and white silks of Rombauer's owners and breeders, John and Diane Fradkin.

But the tradition, steeped into the weathervane with every brush stroke, wouldn't be possible without the painters behind it. Last year, Lawrence Jones, a 32-year veteran of the job, retired and passed the paintbrush to Art At Work's Dick Hageman.

The two men crossed paths just after Gary Barber's War of Will won the 2019 Preakness. Once Jones finished painting the weathervane, he moved onto the iron jockey outside the stakes barn, but required assistance in accurately applying Barber's pink silks which include an almost three-dimensional B on the back surrounded by a circle.

Jones wanted some help and reached out to the Maryland Jockey Club's Erin McElwee. Hageman was the first call.

"He called and asked if I could do that for him in vinyl because those jockeys, with all the folds and everything that are cast into them, it can be hard to do a little fine-line circle like that. It was only a quarter-inch wide at the most, so I went by and did that for him one day," said Hageman. "He called me up to thank me for doing it and we just started talking and we would sit on the phone for an hour every time, just talking away about how the sign business used to be and how it is now. We're really fairly new acquaintances but I really enjoy talking to him, he seems like the nicest man in the world."

When Jones started in 1988, he used an aging wooden ladder before upgrading to a hydraulic lift. He had done sign work for 35 years, including a long career with Baltimore City as a painter, before he retired in 2004, leaving his schedule open to paint recreationally and focus on his weathervane work each spring. Some arthritis and the change in date of last year's Preakness, moved from May to October, prompted his retirement just before turning 80.

And when that decision was made, he called Hageman with a thought.

"You know, Dick, I told you I was probably going to paint the weathervane one or two more years and then I didn't know what I was going to do," Jones said. "I had my contract to do it in May, but I'm 79 and I don't think I want to go out there in October to do it, so I'd like to give you the job since you still have lettering brushes."

Hageman didn't hesitate.

"Yup, I sure do," he replied.

It was an honor.

"When Lawrence Jones called me and said he was turning the job over to me, I swear you could have knocked me over. When I got off the phone, I could barely speak to tell Vicky, my wife. I really didn't think I would ever get the opportunity to do it and I can't thank him enough for trusting me to follow in his footsteps."

Hageman was born in Washington, D.C., but grew up in College Park, Md., getting his first taste of the sign business in college as a freelance screen printer before diving in full-time with Arcon Screen Printing in 1981. Among other

SCOTT SERIO/ECLIPSE SPORTSWIRE

As horses were saddled for the 1963 Preakness, the ladder was in place to paint the weathervane atop the famed Pimlico Race Course clubhouse in the winner's silks. The tradition began in 1909. After fire destroyed the clubhouse in June 1966, a replica cupola was built for the Pimlico winner's circle.

jobs, the company handled sign work for the Maryland Jockey Club's racetracks.

In 1997, Hageman left Arcon to join Art At Work, a sign company created by his wife Vicky just two years prior. Originally in Jessup and now in Beltsville, the two-person family business gradually took over sign work at Pimlico and Laurel Park. The work covers all corners and levels of importance. Years ago, then track superintendent John Passero asked Hageman about painting the 124th Preakness logo on the grass in the infield.

"Sure I can," Hageman answered.

"Have you ever done it before?" Passero countered.

"John, that wasn't the question, the question was can I do it and yes I can do it."

Hageman and his team have been doing it ever since.

Friends think it's all pretty heady, doing graphics and sign work for one of Maryland's signature sporting events. Of course, there's far more to the job.

"It keeps me in check to know that I also make a lot of signs that just say Men's Room," Hageman said.

As a man so closely connected with the Maryland Jockey Club over the past few decades, it's only fitting that Hageman serve as the new weathervane painter, taking his first ride on the lift last October when Swiss Skydiver battled Authentic down the stretch and prevailed by a nose in a delayed, fanless Preakness, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Hageman couldn't shake the bizarre feeling of being able to drive right onto the infield prior to his painting debut, with only the winning connections, TV cameras and facilities staff for an audience.

"Last year, based on what the facilities guys were yelling at me, I was going awfully slow," he said. "They were giving us a lot of grief, 'Lawrence Jones would have been done by now, he'd be back at the stakes barn painting the jockey,' so it was some good-natured ribbing, but it really was true. It was sort of nice to do the first one with nobody there."

This year, he was more than ready. A week prior, Hageman received a list of the Preakness entries' silks so he could start working on table signs, but the task also gave him extra time to study the various patterns and collect the necessary paint colors. Like Lawrence, he uses 1-Shot professional lettering enamel paint, which is durable and fade-resistant, along with a collection of lettering brushes and background brushes he's gathered over the years.

By Preakness morning, the nerves had somewhat settled, but the prep work continued just in case.

"Saturday morning when I get up, while I'm having coffee, I do little thumbnail sketches of the weathervane with the silks pictures in my hand, so I can be like, 'OK, well if I have to do this one, I think I'll do it like this,' " said Hageman. "They're only two or three inches tall, they're just little, tiny thumbnail sketches, but it keeps me from thinking 'What if it's backward, what am I going to do?' so it helps me mentally prepare for it."

By 2 p.m., Hageman and his wife head to the track to take care of a few things in the building before crossing over the dirt, then the turf, to settle next to the cupola with pictures of the silks and nearly 30 cans of paint. A little judicious scraping to guarantee a smooth surface, along with a test run on the lift, were completed a few days prior, so all they could do was wait until the race ended.

"The two times I've done it now, we didn't actually get to watch the Preakness, but we could watch it on our phones," said Hageman. "As soon as the horses crossed the finish line, we were in the lift and going up, but we can't really start painting until the race is declared official, so we were up there waiting. It's a good thing everything went as we saw, because we only took the paint for those silks, so if Rombauer had been taken down for some reason we

would've had to go down and get different paint."

This year, he achieved his goal of finishing just in time to spin the weathervane around for the winner's photo, completing the first side in less than 20 minutes, while cutting his overall time down to an hour and 20 minutes. Once both sides carried Rombauer's silks, Hageman went back to touch up his freehand work, squaring up the blocks on the jockey's arms, tightening the rest of the lines and painting in the saddle cloth.

"One thing I did learn in October was when we're up there on the lift, to not necessarily go by the picture I've got in my hands but to look down and see what the jockey is actually wearing because both times they had on a different cap than what was in the printed silks," said Hageman. "You sort of have to interpret what you're painting too because your pictures of the silks are front to back, but the weathervane is a flat jockey that you're looking at from the side, so you have to interpret, 'Well what would I be seeing from the side?' and go from there."

The following morning, Hageman headed for the stakes barn to take care of the iron jockey. Though the paint is durable, over time both the weathervane and the jockey begin to show their age in the form of peeling, which is maintained yearly with sanding, scraping and a few fresh coats of paint.

Hageman scraped, sanded and was about to start with some magenta paint when a familiar-looking man walked up behind him.

"Did you paint the weathervane yesterday, too?" he asked.

"Yup, I did."

"Oh, I'm Michael McCarthy," said Rombauer's trainer. "I really wanted to thank you. That was a real honor. I couldn't believe the feeling when I saw my owner's silks on the weathervane already."

Hageman the painter—and racing fan—was blown away.

"To me, that was it, that's all I needed to hear, and then we talked for a little bit," he said. "For him to come over and thank me personally for doing it and tell me how it felt to be standing on the porch and look up and see it, it was like, 'OK, well I accomplished it all this year.'"

Though his main job is finished, Hageman will be back at Pimlico to paint both sides of the weathervane's horse to resemble Rombauer's bay coat, along with the jockey to reflect the appearance of Flavien Prat.

JERRY DZIERWINSKI

SARA GORDON

Lawrence Jones painted the weathervane for 32 years, passing the paintbrushes to Dick Hageman for the 2020 race. Below, Hageman with the newly painted iron jockey at the Preakness Stakes barn.

"One funny thing about the horse is that one side is a bay and the other side is gray," said Hageman. "The horse is starting to show its age. As you can imagine, it's got a lot of coats of paint on it. So far all I've done is the silks and saddle cloth, but I want to take on that personal responsibility for keeping the whole weathervane in good shape so I'll go up and do that."

Until then, the bay [or gray] weathervane, depending on the direction the wind spins it, will reside upon the cupola as a representative of a storied tradition, with Rombauer's silks riding on until the 147th Preakness winner crosses the finish line next May and Hageman starts all over again. ✹

LaurelPark

Bettor Man

Baltimore's Levitt eyes top prize at National Horseplayers Championship

By Paul Halloran

If momentum counts for anything, this could be the year Alan Levitt gets his picture taken at the National Horseplayers Championship.

Levitt, who will participate in his 12th NHC Aug. 27-29 at Bally's Las Vegas, has been on a roll in 2021, winning a combined $260,000 in two major tournaments. The Baltimore resident would appear to be well positioned to make a run in the NHC, though he realizes a look at the past performances hardly makes him a favorite.

"I love the experience of the NHC, but for the most part the results have been disappointing," said Levitt, whose only top-10 finish was in 2012, when Michael Beychok won the only $1 million first prize in the 21-year history of the NHC.

Levitt was in the lead halfway through the second day–the NHC did not become a three-day competition until 2013–and ended up seventh, earning $21,500. In 2014, Levitt did not make it to the final round on Day Three, but was runner-up in the consolation bracket. Last year, he managed to finish 37th (worth $13,200).

"Those are the only three years I've come away with money," Levitt said.

It's safe to say, however, that Levitt has never entered the NHC with more confidence, after winning the Flo-Cal Faceoff in January, worth more than $206,000, and finishing first and fourth in the Monmouth Pick Your Prize tournament June 12, taking home almost $55,000 and a berth in the Breeders' Cup Betting Challenge. He could have chosen 2022 NHC berths, but he is already double-qualified for next year's national championship.

"I've had a good year," he said, though he would have preferred being able to experience the success outside of his home, 2½ miles from Pimlico Race Course, where he has basically been a prisoner to Covid-19.

Diagnosis confirmed

Dr. Alan Levitt's career was going quite nicely in 2000. The native New Yorker was teaching at the University of Maryland medical school and helping to run a stroke rehabilitation program.

"I was a happy, successful academic physician," he said. "I loved my work."

When you're a doctor and you feel symptoms coming on, it can be both a blessing and a curse. In Levitt's case, it was more the latter.

"Out of nowhere, I developed these neurological symptoms," he said. "I knew I had MS right away. I woke up one morning and had difficulty walking. I went to the hospital and my colleagues gave me a diagnosis that I already knew."

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society defines MS as "an unpredictable disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body." Hardly ideal for teaching and practicing medicine.

The medications Levitt took were not that effective, and by 2006 he was forced to take a disability retirement. The University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute renamed its gym for him.

Not working gave Levitt more time to hone his handicapping skills, even as the disease affected his acuity.

"I got involved more in handicapping, because I had more time," Levitt said, "but my processing speed slowed down. I was always a data geek, so I started making spread sheets to keep myself mentally active."

Levitt had started playing small contests in the late 1990s and won an ESPN contest in 2003 the weekend that Empire Maker won the Belmont Stakes. When he found himself with more free time, he got serious about it and earned his first berth in the NHC in 2008, the second time he attempted to qualify.

"I was probably ahead of the curve at that time when it came to using data. Now, I'm behind the curve," said Levitt, though there is a good reason for that.

Levitt said that around 2010 a new class of medicines to treat MS came along and he started to improve. "The brain has an amazing capacity to recover," he said. "My brain started getting sharper and my physical condition improved."

By 2013, Levitt was healthy enough to return to work, taking a position at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, a government agency in Baltimore. He helps develop quality-control measures used by medical facilities to monitor their performance.

Ironically, one of the drugs that has benefitted Levitt is part of the reason he has not been out of the house much since the onset of Covid. Rituxan, primarily used to treat blood cancer, has proven effective for MS patients, but one of the side effects is that it decreases the number of white blood cells, which produce antibodies. As a result, even though Levitt has been vaccinated, he is still highly susceptible to the virus.

"The good news is the medicine works. The bad news is the medicine works," Levitt said. "We don't have all the answers [about Covid] yet. I'm in an uncomfortable situation right now."

Harnessing a skill

Levitt started handicapping as a teenager at Roosevelt Raceway on Long Island. "I fell in love and remained in love," he said. The summer before he started college at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, he started playing the NYRA circuit regularly, which continued at Saratoga, less than 30 miles from RPI.

He was still playing harness races year-round as a student at Albany Medical College, but in the summer he headed to Saratoga like the rest of us. His girlfriend, Janice Finkelstein, whom he met in medical school, was happy to join him. They have been married for 38 years and have three adult children.

"I knew we were meant for each other," Levitt said.

The question is, how did Levitt progress from decent handicapper to one of the top contest players on the circuit. The answer lies in his ability to combine a contrarian nature with identifying value plays.

"Whenever I hear a group of horseplayers say something looks impossible, I gravitate toward it," Levitt said. "I always try to find horses that other people may not be looking at."

That was never more evident than in the final race of the Flo-Cal Faceoff – the ninth at Santa Anita on Jan. 10 – in which Levitt tabbed 29-1 shot Five Pics Please, making his California debut for trainer John Sadler and jockey Umberto Rispoli off a four-month layoff and prior starts at Mountaineer, Belterra Park and Indiana Grand. The winning longshot catapulted Levitt from 19th place to the top of the standings in just under 69 seconds.

A top national handicapper, Baltimore's Alan Levitt has taken home numerous awards and gets another chance in August.

In the Monmouth Pick Your Prize, a live money contest (as opposed to the win-place format of the NHC), Levitt hit a $100 three-horse exacta box in the last race, collecting $9,780 to land on top of the standings. Fourth on his other entry, Levitt walked away with almost $55,000, including his bankroll.

"In sports, you can't teach size and quickness and in horse contests, you can't teach brains," said Dino Herrera, a former Virginia resident and Laurel Park regular who met Levitt at the 2014 NHC and has become part of his Table 24 crew. "Alan is one of the smartest people I know. He has an uncanny ability to make contest picks that most people won't."

George Bosch, another NHC friend, said Levitt "has a different way of discerning things. I've been amazed at his exploits. Alan is a down-to-earth, normal guy who has a great skill."

Levitt also attributes his success in the contest world to understanding the difference between being a good horse player and a good contest player.

"As a good horse player, you want to have a positive ROI. To be a good contest player, it's not just about being ahead at the end of the day, you have to beat the other players," he said.

Levitt has shown the ability to do both, while earning the respect of his fellow players.

"Alan is a phenomenal handicapper and a better gentleman," said Rob Ramirez, who met Levitt in Las Vegas five years ago and has been sitting with him at Table 24 since. "You couldn't make a nicer guy. He's a sincere, mellow guy. He goes about his business – and he wins."

He is also willing to share his wealth of knowledge gained over the years, serving as an NHC mentor to Joe Sharabati, who has been playing horses for more than 15 years but joined the NHC Tour for the first time this year.

When he learned of the mentor program, he signed up and Levitt was assigned to him.

"Alan has been very encouraging," said Sharabati, who lives in the Bay area of California. "Whenever he explains something to me, he doesn't tell me I have to do things a certain way. He tells me to find something I like and go for it. There's no right way, just your way."

No masking concerns about Covid

Despite being immunosuppressed, Levitt will travel to Vegas for the NHC, though he plans to wear an N95 mask and keep his distance from others.

"There are enormous risks, on the airplane and at the venue," he said. "I have no antibodies. My plan is to likely get a booster vaccine at some point. We're dealing with this in real time. We don't know all the answers."

Perhaps not when it comes to the virus, but he seems to have the handicapping questions figured out pretty well. ✹

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Breaking News

Mopo Racing reaches new heights with stakes winner Alwaysinahurry

BY SARA GORDON. PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM MCCUE

Alwaysinahurry rolls down the stretch to win the Concern Stakes on the July 4 card.

Just as Mopo Racing's Alwaysinahurry crossed the wire 4¾ lengths ahead of favorite Mighty Mischief in the $100,000 Concern Stakes, one of four featured on Pimlico Race Course's July 4 card, his trainer Dale Capuano received a text, "Can you hear our screams from Montana?"

The message came from owner Maury Povich, the man behind Mopo Racing, as he watched his 3-year-old Maryland-bred son of Great Notion notch his first stakes win, and the first for Povich as an owner, on TVG with his wife Connie Chung in their Montana home.

"Dale entered him in the Concern and coming up to the race, I looked at the card and I thought, Mighty Mischief is a Grade 3 winner, he's the favorite, and Roderick, these are class horses, and our little 3-year-old just put 'em down," said Povich. "Connie and I were so excited."

Povich, an American television personality best known for hosting the talk show *Maury*, has been a lifelong fan of Thoroughbred racing, inspired by his late father Shirley, an award-winning reporter and columnist at *The Washington Post* from 1923-98. Though his father covered all sports, he had a passion for racing as he reported on the meets at Bowie, Pimlico and Laurel Park.

"My father covered the Preakness for 50 or 60 years, in fact he covered the great match race between War Admiral and Seabiscuit at Pimlico, so we have a great fondness for Maryland racing," said Povich. "Then on my own as I got to be an adult, I used to go to the track all the time when I could, and I used to go with my father after he retired, so it was dear to my heart."

For Povich's 80th birthday in January 2019, his wife (also a network news anchor and television journalist) and friends gave him the gift of a racing stable by pooling money and connecting Povich with Capuano, who was tasked with claiming a few horses. The first horse to run in Mopo Racing's blue and red silks was hard-knocking Maryland-bred Eastern Bay, claimed for $35,000 at Laurel in April 2019.

Though Povich and Chung are the names most people know, Mopo Racing is a partnership and includes Capuano client Michael Scheffres, Johnathan Lennox (an executive with Povich's Mopo Productions) and Washington, D.C.-based businessman Alan Bubes. Scheffres called Capuano "one of the best Maryland trainers" when making the recommendation.

"You couldn't ask for better clients than they are, they're terrific," said Capuano. "They let you do what you need to do, they're good sports, they don't come any better."

After finishing fourth in a 6-furlong starter allowance at Delaware Park in June, Alwaysinahurry (9-1) came into the Concern with distinct motive, biding time near the back of the pack as Roderick and 2021 Pimlico Special-G3 winner Mighty Mischief set the pace with a :22.97 quarter. Making his move on the inside, Alwaysinahurry lived up to his name as he came off the rail at the top of the stretch to bear down on Mighty Mischief before pulling away to finish 6 furlongs in 1:10.56 for jockey Jorge Ruiz.

"That race at Delaware was very tough," said Capuano. "He was on the rail and he was very game, he never quit and he came out of the race in really good shape. He breaks well enough and he's able to relax, he'll go either right to the front or off the pace, and there was quite a bit of speed so we thought he'd lay off the pace and Ruiz worked out a good trip."

Second in his debut last July at Delaware, Alwaysinahurry followed with a fourth, third and second before graduating from the maiden ranks, also at Delaware, by 5¼ lengths in his fifth start last September.

"After his first couple of races, Dale said to me, 'you know, he's a really good horse, we think a lot of him, but he's a little too social during the race,' meaning he likes to look around and he's not minding the business of running, so Dale decided to

geld him and then he broke his maiden," said Povich.

In October, the bay finished second in the Maryland Million Nursery, his stakes debut, behind stablemate Kenny Had a Notion. Two weeks later, Alwaysinahurry picked up his second win in an allowance race before closing 2020 with a fifth in the Maryland Juvenile Futurity.

Nearly a year after making his debut, Alwaysinahurry had amassed $160,072 with a record of 3-3-1 from 10 starts.

As of July 9, Mopo Racing had 81 starts under its belt, with 20 wins, 16 seconds, 10 thirds and a total of $644,312 in earnings, accounting for a nearly 25-percent win percentage and just over 55-percent in placings. Not bad for a racing stable founded on somewhat of a "fluke" in early 2019.

Mopo has since expanded to the sales side of the business. Povich came from his home in New York City to join Capuano at the 2019 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale in Timonium, Md., where they spent $239,000 on five yearlings. Alwaysinahurry, from the consignment of Becky Davis, was the biggest purchase at $70,000.

Bred by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Quin Bowman, the new stakes winner is the 11th foal to race for Otherwise Perfect (Lemon Drop Kid) and a half-brother to graded stakes-placed Friscan (Two Punch), stakes winners I Stand Alone (Dance With Ravens) and Clubman (Not For Love), and stakes-placed Stonebriar (Two Punch).

Last year, Mopo Racing purchased one yearling from the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sale, a Maryland-bred colt by Golden Lad out of She's Achance, for $30,000. Now named Remembering Wilbur, the 2-year-old recorded his first three published works at Pimlico in June.

The head count for Povich's stable stands at seven, with 2021 stakes-placed Dixie Drawl, Pay the Kid, Walk Away Joe, Kickstarter and Moquist joining the squad. The latter was purchased out of the same sale as Alwaysinahurry, for $50,000. The Maryland-bred filly by Nyquist out of Island Bound eyes her first start this summer.

And Povich, now 82 and enjoying his time in Montana before heading back to New York to continue filming his show in September, can't wait.

"Because of Covid-19 we haven't been to see any of our horses run, but I know that Laurel is going to reopen in the middle of September and I'm sure our horses will be running in that meet, so therefore I'm going to come down and see our horses run in the flesh," he said. "I've not done that yet and it's a big hole in our hearts. We want to make up for it and come down and see our horses."

Ellanation rewards her breeders Dark Hollow Farm with a stakes triumph in the Jameela.

There was no hiding the pride in Povich's voice when he spoke of him.

"I mean the fact that Alwaysinahurry is a Maryland-bred is terrific, you know the breeder, I mean they obviously did a great job breeding this horse," he said. "As far as I'm concerned, he's won $1 million."

Ellanation comes home

They say if something's meant to be, it'll come back to you, and nothing describes the story of Dark Hollow Farm and Ellanation, its newest homebred stakes winner, better.

The 5-year-old Maryland-bred daughter of Alternation won her first stakes when she took the Jameela, for Maryland-bred/Maryland-sired fillies and mares, July 4.

Ellanation (10-1) rated off the pace in the 5-furlong turf test as the four ahead of her flew through an opening quarter in :22.60 and half in :46.15. Midway down the stretch, she charged between horses, gained the lead and held off Dendrobia to hit the wire in :58.59.

For Dark Hollow owners David and JoAnn Hayden, there to witness the victory, it was nothing short of a perfect homecoming for a mare they'd sold as a weanling.

"Let's say we're really happy campers, big smiles," said David Hayden. "Matter of fact, a couple people sent emails to us and said, 'Love the smiles in the winner's circle.' "

But it was also a tribute to a family started with Pennsylvania-bred stakes winner Mystic Dance, claimed by Dark Hollow for $25,000 at Laurel Park on the advice of trainer Ann Merryman in October 1995.

"It was a good family and she was looking for a partner to claim the horse, so I said, 'Sure, I'd be happy to do that,'" said Hayden. "So we claimed Mystic Dance for $25,000. We had her, we raced her, we bred her for a while. We bred a couple together and then [Ann] just wanted out of the partnership, so we bought her out, but I have to give her kudos for picking Mystic Dance out."

Mystic Dance, winner of the 1995 Sham Say Stakes at Pimlico, produced stakes winners Chancellor M. H. (Mt. Livermore) and Dance Fee (Menifee) for the partnership, and two more winners for Dark Hollow, including Memories of Mystic.

The daughter of Dixie Union has produced 10 foals, with five winners from seven starters including stakes winners Mystic Love (Not For Love), Bridget's Big Luvy (Tiz Wonderful) and now Ellanation. In 2016, Dark Hollow sold Memories of Mystic for $100,000 at the Keeneland November breeding stock sale, just before sending Ellanation through the ring for $32,000.

As a 2-year-old in April 2018, Ellanation was part of an Ocala Breeders Sales Company's 2-year-old sale and David Hayden headed south to buy her back.

"We'd sold the dam and a couple of her foals had started to do well, so we thought

we'd go there and buy her back for maybe $100,000," he said. "It's funny, Tres Abbott was down there trying to buy her as well, and we both thought $100,000 would be the number and obviously she went for $160,000, so it was out of our ballpark."

Loudmouth Racing made the winning bid, brought on partner Joseph Bulger, and by August Ellanation had finished fifth in her first start. She broke her maiden in her fourth start, winning by a nose as the favorite in a 6-furlong waiver maiden claimer (no tag), for trainer Miguel Vera. She made one more start to close her 2-year-old season and took a nearly seven-month break before returning to finish second in her first start as a 3-year-old, followed by a fourth in the Blue Sparkler at Monmouth, her stakes debut.

After four more starts, including wins on the turf at Aqueduct and Woodbine's all-weather track, it was discovered that she had chips in her knees and needed surgery. With no intention of keeping her for breeding, Loudmouth's racing manager Nick Sallusto called David Hayden and asked if he wanted to buy her back. For $8,000, Ellanation was on her way home.

"We really bought her back as a broodmare prospect. We said, 'You know, let's just take the opportunity to clean her knees up and just see what happens and we'll try her racing,' because she's obviously a superb horse and we had plenty of time, time was on our side, so we gave her every opportunity," Hayden said. "She was probably on the farm for maybe five or six months after the operation, and then we sent her up to Brenda Godfrey at Nor Mar Farm which has a great swimming facility. But there was no sense in rushing her back to Mike [Trombetta] in the early winter."

On Christmas Eve last year, Ellanation returned to the work tab for Trombetta at Laurel. But after a long road back post-surgery, there were a few more bridges to cross including the various troubles with Laurel's track and the relocation of horses to Pimlico and Timonium.

"We had to deal with the situation going on at Laurel, we had to ship to Pimlico to breeze, those kinds of things," said Trombetta. "Fortunately they did allow us to do a little bit of work on the grass, which was helpful, but then we relocated to Timonium and all that kind of stuff so once we got over all those hurdles it became much more straightforward after she got a race under her belt or two."

Sixth at Laurel in April on a muddy track, and fifth in an off-the-turf allowance at Pimlico in May, she was back on the grass at Delaware Park and finished fifth going 5 furlongs in mid-June. The goal was simple–add black type to her record to burnish her broodmare potential.

"That was kind of the whole premise of the thing when David sent her to us, he said if there's any way in the world she can get a stakes-placing it would be a huge asset to her pedigree," said Trombetta. "We figured [the Jameela] was one of the very few, best chances she would get and fortunately, as it worked out, we were able to get a couple races under her belt and by the time she got there, she was actually in really good order and training good. Honestly, we would've been tickled to death just to get a placing in the race, so to win the race was beyond our hopes and expectations."

Now the fifth stakes winner from the family bred by Dark Hollow, Ellanation holds a record of 15-4-4-1 with $178,269.

"She's sound, she's great, and now we're looking at trying to pile earnings on," said Hayden. "But if we could find another stakes race where she could be competitive we'll give it a shot."

Valued Notion pulls mild upset

Hillwood Stable's Valued Notion, a 4-year-old Pennsylvania-bred son of Great Notion, made quick work of five foes in the $75,000 Ben's Cat (for Maryland-bred

Stakes results for Pimlico

6/13 Prince George's County ($100K). 1⅛ mi. Turf. 3&up.

Winner: **PIXELATE** (dk.b./br.c., 4, City Zip—Speckled, By Street Cry-Ire). B/O-Godolphin (Ky.). T-Michael Stidham. J-Joe Bravo. Time: 1:53.56. Margin: 1. 2nd: **Logical Myth**. 3rd: **Eons**.

6/13 Searching ($100K). 1½ mi. Turf. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **BLAME DEBBIE** (b.f., 4, Blame—Jadwa, by Invasor-Arg). B-Tim Thornton and Tony Holmes (Ky.). O-Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, Michael P. Cloonan and Timothy C. Thornton. T-H. Graham Motion. J-Victor R. Carrasco. Time: 2:38.50. Margin: 3½. 2nd: **Luck Money**. 3rd: **Crystalle**.

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6/13 Shine Again ($100K). 6 F. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **CHUB WAGON** (b.f., 4, Hey Chub—Takin the Plunge, by Lion Heart). B-Joe-Dan Farm and George Chestnut (Pa.). O-Daniel Lopez and George Chestnut. T-Guadalupe Preciado. J-Jomar Torres. Time: 1:10.21. Margin: neck. 2nd: **Hello Beautiful**. 3rd: **Paisley Singing**.

6/13 Stormy Blues ($100K). 5 F. Off Turf. 3YO F.

Winner: **STREET LUTE** (ch.f., Street Magician—Alottalute, by Midnight Lute). B-Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman (Md.). O-Lucky 7 Stables. T-John J. Robb. J-Xavier Perez. Time: :58.00. Margin: ½. 2nd: **Malibu Beauty**. 3rd: **Prodigy Doll**.

6/13 Ben's Cat ($75K). 5 F. Off Turf. Reg. MD-Bred or Sired, 3&up.

Winner: **VALUED NOTION** (dk.b./br.g., 4, Great Notion—What Am I Gonna Do, by Partner's Hero). B-Steven Long and Jane Long (Pa.). O-Hillwood Stable LLC. T-Rodney Jenkins. J-Xavier Perez. Time: :58.19. Margin: 2. 2nd: **Air Token**. 3rd: **Oldies But Goodies**.

7/4 Caesar's Wish ($100K). 1 1/16 mi. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **MRS. ORB** (dk.b./br.m., 6, Orb—Gypsy Angel, by Silver Train). B-Rhapsody Farm LLC (Ky.). O-Ruggeri Stable, Richard Coburn, Script R Farm and Michael Miceli. T-Michael Miceli. J-Horacio Karamanos. Time: 1:44.17. Margin: ½. 2nd: **Trolley Ride**. 3rd: **Sweet Sami D**.

7/4 Concern ($100K). 6 F. 3YO.

Winner: **ALWAYSINAHURRY** (b.g., Great Notion—Otherwise Perfect, by Lemon Drop Kid). B-Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Quin Bowman and Rebecca Davis (Md.). O-Mopo Racing. T-Dale Capuano. J-Jorge Ruiz. Time: 1:10.56. Margin: 4¾. 2nd: **Mighty Mischief**. 3rd: **Three Two Zone**.

FUELED BY The Mill

7/4 Lite the Fuse ($100K). 6 F. 3&up.

Winner: **YAUPON** (dk.b./br.c., 4, Uncle Mo—Modification, by Vindication). B-Betz, Lamantia, CoCo Equine, Magers and Burns (Ky.). O-L. William and Corinne Heiligbrodt. T-Steven M. Asmussen. J-Ricardo Santana Jr. Time: 1:09.42. Margin: 1¾. 2nd: **Laki**. 3rd: **Chateau**.

7/4 Jameela ($75K). 5 F. Turf. Reg. MD-Bred or Sired, 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **ELLANATION** (b.m., 5, Alternation—Memories of Mystic, by Dixie Union). B/O-Dark Hollow Farm (Md.). T-Michael J. Trombetta. J-Victor R. Carrasco. Time: :58.59. Margin: ½. 2nd: **Dendrobia**. 3rd: **Quiet Company**.

RAISED ON The Mill

or Maryland-sired), one of five stakes offered on June 13, as he led gate-to-wire to score in his stakes debut.

Sent off at 8-1, Valued Notion sprung to the lead, cruised through the quarter in :22.22 and fired down the stretch, staying ahead of Oldies But Goodies and outlasting a late run from Air Token to win by 2 lengths as he finished the 5 furlongs, originally scheduled for the turf, in :58.19.

And just before the dark bay/brown gelding galloped out and made his way to the winner's circle, Hillwood's Ellen Charles made sure to invite breeder Steven Long and his guests to the winner's circle.

"It was extremely exciting, I was thrilled, and it was very nice because his breeder came to see him," said Charles. "It is always nice when the person who raised him gets the chance to see him win like that."

Long made the trip from Airville, Pa., where he and his wife Jane run a small breeding operation out of their farm, which they purchased in 2004. Getting into the breeding game in the early 2000s, the Longs initially bred to race, but switched to selling. Though they typically only have two or three mares foaling each year, their eye for quality and opportunity has been exemplified by their young stock, especially those produced by Valued Notion's dam What Am I Gonna Do.

The Virginia-bred daughter of Partner's Hero, bred by Larry Johnson and descending from his foundation mare Ran's Chick, made six winless starts in 2010 before she was consigned to the 2011 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December mixed sale, in foal to Johnson's stallion Street Magician. She left the ring as a $1,000 RNA, but Long approached Johnson with a different kind of offer.

"We had another mare named Overdue Ghost he had previously owned, and [she] hadn't gotten bred for a few years so we actually got her in foal, she was a good 20 or 21 years old or something," said Long. "Anyways I told him I would trade him that [2-year-old] for this mare and he said he would do that."

Though Johnson never raced the filly and ended up returning her to Long, who found her a home as a foxhunter, What Am I Gonna Do has been a treasured resident at the Longs' farm ever since.

The mare's three winners from four starters, two of which are stakes winners, have earned $482,350. After Great Soul (Great Notion), her second foal, RNA'd for $20,000 as a yearling, she went on to become a multiple stakes winner for the Longs, with victories in the 2016 Wide Country and 2017 Mrs. Penny, along with four stakes-placings. In 2018, she sold for $220,000 to Glen Hill Farm at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky February mixed sale.

Xavier Perez makes a point as Valued Notion delivers in the Ben's Cat.

Valued Notion, following in his older sister's hoofprints, sold for $120,000 to Hillwood at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's 2018 fall yearling sale. Fifth in his first two starts last July, he returned in February to break his maiden at Laurel. Following up with an allowance win in March, the Rodney Jenkins trainee finished fourth in April before taking May off and returning for the Ben's Cat in June.

"He was a handsome yearling, he's a lovely horse," said Charles. "He was a great big guy so it took him awhile to get it all together and he's done so well since, he's been a joy, and he's a nice horse to be around."

With three wins from seven starts, Valued Notion has earned $94,570, and only added to the family produced by What Am I Gonna Do.

Giant Captain, a 5-year-old by Street Magician, sold for $95,000 as a 2-year-old to K.O.I.D., while What Am I Gonna Do's 2-year-old filly by Gormley sold for $78,000 to Johnson at this year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old sale after breezing an eighth in :10.1. The filly went through the ring at last year's Keeneland January sale as a yearling, selling for $33,000, and came back in the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall sale to sell for $60,000.

On March 7, What Am I Gonna Do produced a filly by Vino Rosso, and Long was planning to breed her back to Holy Boss in early July.

"[Valued Notion has] helped, especially now being a stakes winner, to build that pedigree, so yeah I'd kind of like to keep one of the fillies now, so that's why I said probably we'll sell this Vino Rosso but I don't know," said Long. "Maybe we'll have to keep that one for continuing the line."

As for Valued Notion, who finished last in a field of seven in a 6-furlong Pimlico allowance July 9, Charles was optimistic about the rest of his 3-year-old campaign.

"We'll probably look for a stake somewhere along the way. The [Lite the Fuse Stakes] came up really tough so we thought we'd scratch him and run him in this [allowance]. He needs to get out there and get a little fitness, more fitness than he gets working," said Charles. "He's a Pennsylvania-bred, so we also have the option of leaving Maryland and going to Pennsylvania, but I don't think we've seen the best of him. Certainly on the state level he seems to be very competitive so we'll just have to see how things go for him."

■ Just three races after Valued Notion's triumph in the Ben's Cat, Dan Lopez and George Chestnut's homebred **Chub Wagon** extended her perfect record with a neck win in the $100,000 Shine Again Stakes for fillies and mares, 3 and up. Pulling ahead of multiple stakes winner Hello Beautiful down the stretch, the 4-year-old Pennsylvania-bred daughter of Hey Chub finished the 6-furlong test in 1:10.21. Trained by Guadalupe Preciado, Chub Wagon picked up her third straight stakes victory and made it four (and stayed perfect in eight lifetime starts) with a victory in Delaware Park's Dashing Beauty July 10.

■ Lucky 7 Stables' **Street Lute** was quick to follow suit a race later as she made up for her sixth in the Miss Preakness Stakes-G3

and returned to the winner's circle with a half-length score in the $100,000 Stormy Blues Stakes for 3-year-old fillies. Despite hopping at the break, she flew around the far turn and pursued the leading pair of Malibu Beauty and Proper Attire down the stretch before passing Malibu Beauty on the outside to stop the clock in :58 flat for the 5-furlong test. The 3-year-old Jerry Robb trainee scored her seventh stakes win as she improved her overall record to 8-1-1 from 11 career starts, with earnings of $481,720.

NOTES: Holly Hill Stables' Edie Meeny Miny Mo was off to a quick start as the 3-year-old Upstart filly broke her maiden first time out in April, and then won her next by 6 lengths, a 6-furlong allowance June 13 in 1:10.27. Bred by Dark Hollow Farm out of stakes-winning homebred Plum, she sold for $120,000 as a yearling and brought $400,000 as a 2-year-old when purchased by her current owner at last year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old sale . . . Wicked Hot was just that, as the 3-year-old Mosler filly finished second on debut May 6 and came back three weeks later to break her maiden by 12 lengths. In her third start, the Maryland-bred moved up to allowance company and won again for owners Francis Poggi and Greycross Stable. Bred by Randy and Gary Ridgely, the $30,000 yearling is out of the stakes-placed Latent Heat mare Hot Fun. . . Company Clown was the only three-time winner of the meet as of July 9. ✹

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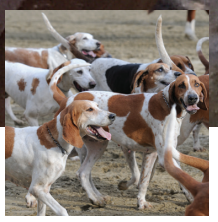

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Stepping Forward

Ex-jockey Delgado sprints to early lead among trainers

BY PAUL HALLORAN. PHOTOGRAPHS BY EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Only four years after going out on his own, Jose Delgado finds himself at the top of the Monmouth Park trainers' standings, with a horse in his barn that could take him to the Breeders' Cup.

"This is getting serious now," Delgado said in early July. "This is another level."

Delgado finished second in the Monmouth trainer standings last year with 17 wins to Kelly Breen's 32 and showed up with 30 horses for the 2021 meet. He got off to a hot start, winning 16 races from his first 39 starters. That's 41 percent, for those of you keeping score at home.

"It takes a lot of hard work and I have a great team," Delgado said. "The owners are supporting me and giving me horses. I've got allowance horses, stakes and claimers. Everything is working well."

Delgado plays the claiming game at both ends, though through the first five weeks of the meet he had lost seven more horses than he claimed.

One horse who gets Delgado up in the morning is The Critical Way, a 7-year-old Pennsylvania-bred who has proven he can run with the best turf sprinters in the country, having knocked heads with two-time Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint-G1 contender Imprimis and 2021 Al Quoz Sprint champ Extravagant Kid.

"He's a really professional horse," said Delgado, who has been training The Critical Way for Monster Racing Stables since June 2020. In nine starts for Delgado, The Critical Way has four wins and eight consecutive in-the-money finishes, including a third in the Grade 2 Shakertown at Keeneland in April and a neck defeat in the Jim McKay Turf Sprint on the Preakness undercard, losing to Firecrow, who set a track record of :55.30.

"Every time I take him to the racetrack he gives 110 percent," Delgado said of the gelding by Tizway out of the Star de Naskra mare Critical Factor. "I try to keep him happy in the morning and not do too much with him."

Delgado has mapped three Grade 3 stakes for The Critical Way, starting with the Troy at Saratoga Aug. 6. He would then go to Parx Racing for the Parx Dash Aug. 24 and the Turf Monster on the Sept. 25 card that features the Pennsylvania Derby-G1 and the Cotillion-G1. If everything goes well, the ultimate goal is the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint-G1 at Del Mar Nov. 6.

The Critical Way captured the Get Serious Stakes by a confident 3 lengths, his fourth win in nine starts for his conditioner, former jockey Jose Delgado.

"With a little luck, we might get there," said Delgado, who didn't plan on becoming a trainer after he stopped riding in 2014, when making weight became too much of an ordeal. He worked as an assistant to Mike Laurer in Indiana in 2008, before coming back to ride sporadically from 2010-14.

"I was galloping horses for everyone and Jose Camejo told me I should get my [trainer's] license," Delgado said. "I didn't plan to do it, it just happened."

Five years ago he decided to "buy a horse and see what happens," and Delgado, who came to the United States from Panama as an 18-year-old in 1996, has parlayed that one-horse stable into a formidable operation. In addition to his success at Monmouth, Delgado finished second in the standings in the Tampa meet that ended in April.

As a former jockey, Delgado is predictably not a fan of the New Jersey whip rule, which basically prohibits the use of the crop unless the jockey feels he or she is in danger.

"I respect everybody, but that is a really bad rule," he said. "A jockey has to have control of the horse. Horses are really smart. They will get away with whatever they can. The jockey has to make sure they know who is in control."

NOTES: Princess Georgia won the Spruce Fir Handicap for New Jersey-breds on Memorial Day. It was the first stakes win for the daughter of El Padrino and Vodka High, bred by Reeve Schley III, and her third win in a row, moving up from winning a $10,000 claimer to starter allowance. C J Racing owns the Calixto Juarez trainee . . . Another horse bred by Schley, Lib's Contento, ran three times in a month, breaking his maiden June 4 and following with two out-of-the-money finishes. Schley owns the New Jersey-bred gelding trained by Rory Huston. Like Haskell, the Schley name is well known in New Jersey racing as Reeve Schley Jr. was chairman of Monmouth Park and bred 1978 New Jersey-bred Horse of the year Queen Lib . . . There won't be many more popular winners than Chublicious, a 10-year-old gelding whose June 18 victory in a $15,000 claimer was his first in three years. Owned by Brittlyn Stable and trained by Jose Camejo, the ageless New Jersey-bred is a two-time winner (2016, 2018) of the Mr. Prospector Stakes at Monmouth as well as the 2017 Frank DeFrancis Memorial Dash-G3 at Laurel. By Hey Chub out of the Arch mare Sassy Broad, Chublicious got his 12th win from 36 starts, to push his earnings to $714,253.

Informative produced a shocker in the Grade 3 Salvator Mile, rallying from last of 10 to reward his lucky backers $161.60 for the win.

June stakes results for Monmouth

6/5 Monmouth-G3 ($150K). 1⅛ mi. Turf. 3&up.

Winner: **DEVAMANI (Fr)** (ch.g., 7, Dubawi-Ire—Daryakana, by Selkirk). B-S. C. H. H. The Aga Khan Studs (France). O-Michael Dubb, Sanford Goldfarb and Samuel Abraham. T-Chad Brown. J-Nik Juarez. Time: 1:48.90. Margin: 1½. 2nd: **Winters Back**. 3rd: **Corelli**.

6/6 Lady's Secret ($100K). 1⅛ mi. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **ALTAF** (b.f., 4, Medaglia d'Oro—Fawaarek, by Smart Strike). B/O-Shadwell Farm (Ky.). T-Chad Brown. J-Dylan Davis. Time: 1:43.64. Margin: 2½. 2nd: **Gibberish**. 3rd: **Landing Zone**.

6/12 Salvator Mile-G3 ($150K). 1 mi. 3&up.

Winner: **INFORMATIVE** (dk.b./br.g., 4, Bodemeister—Lucky Black, by Hard Spun). B-Rose Hill Farm and John Trumbulovic (Ky.). O-Trin-Brook Stables Inc. T-Uriah St. Lewis. J-Jose Ferrer.
Time: 1:37.01. Margin: 1. 2nd: **Ny Traffic**. 3rd: **Galerio**.

6/13 Pegasus ($150K). 1⅛ mi. 3YO.

Winner: **MANDALOUN** (b.c., Into Mischief—Brooch, by Empire Maker). B/O-Juddmonte Farms (Ky.). T-Brad Cox. J-Florent Geroux. Time: 1:44.63. Margin: neck. 2nd: **Weyburn**. 3rd: **Dr Jack**.

6/19 Get Serious ($75K). 5 F. Turf. 3&up.

Winner: **THE CRITICAL WAY** (dk.b./br.g., 7, Tizway—Critical Factor, by Star de Naskra).
B-Blackstone Farm (Pa.). O-Monster Racing Stables. T-Jose Delgado. J-Paco Lopez. Time: :55.19. Margin: 3.
2nd: **French Reef (Ire)**. 3rd: **Francatelli**.

6/20 Eatontown ($150K). 1⅛ mi. Turf. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **VIGILANTES WAY** (b.f., 4, Medaglia d'Oro—Salute, by Unbridled). B/O-Phipps Stable (Ky.). T-Claude McGaughey III. J-Paco Lopez. Time: 1:41.90. Margin: 2¼. 2nd: **Valletta**.
3rd: **Counterparty Risk (Ire)** (DH), **Crystal Cliffs (Fr)** (DH).

6/25 Goldwood ($75K). 5 F. Turf. 3&up.

Winner: **CARAVEL** (gr./ro.f., 4, Mizzen Mast—Zeezee Zoomzoom, by Congrats).
B/O/T-Elizabeth Merryman (Pa.). J-Pablo Morales. Time: :54.97. Margin: 4¼.
2nd: **Miss Auramet**. 3rd: **No Mercy Percy**.

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6/26 Boiling Springs ($75K). 1⅛ mi. Turf. 3YO F.

Winner: **POR QUE NO** (b.f., Wicked Strong—Cryptic Message, by Cryptograph).
B-Spendthrift Farm (Ky.). O-Fano Racing. T-J. Kent Sweezey. J-Ferrin Peterson. Time: 1:42.49. Margin: 4½.
2nd: **Shantisara (Ire)**. 3rd: **Seasons**.

6/27 Smart N Classy ($75K). 1 mi. Reg. NJ-Bred, 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **GROOVY SURPRISE** (b.f., 4, Giant Surprise—Good and Groovy, by Good and Tough). B/O-Hope Haskell Jones (N.J.). T-Rory Huston. J-Mychel Sanchez. Time: 1:38.21. Margin: ¾.
2nd: **Stay Smart**. 3rd: **Diamond Play**.

Doubled Up

Russell runners find two stakes hits in Christiana, Alapocas Run July 3

BY MELISSA BAUER-HERZOG. PHOTOGRAPHS BY HOOFPRINTS, INC.

Quickly rising to "one to watch" status in the racing industry, young trainer Brittany Russell hit another milestone in early July when she saw her runners register a stakes double at Delaware Park.

July 3 was a big day for Russell, who first saw Out of Sorts brush off undesirable ground for a 3-length win in the $75,000 Christiana Stakes on turf. Half an hour later Whereshetoldmetogo did the same in the $50,000 Alapocas Run Stakes coming off a layoff with husband Sheldon aboard for both wins.

"It was awesome," she said. "We work so hard every day and you obviously go to the races and try to win races and do the best you can for the horses and the clients. But to win two stakes, those are really the days that we get up for."

Purchased for $1,000 as a yearling by Roger Rashall (who races as Respect the Valleys) and sent to Russell's barn from the start, Out of Sorts stepped up when it mattered. The 3-year-old was stakes placed in both her attempts at the level last year and had run credibly in both starts as a 3-year-old, notching a hard-fought allowance victory at Pimlico in June. The Dramedy daughter had always been highly regarded in the barn and for Russell, it was a satisfying step in the filly's journey.

"She's special for a lot of reasons and she did as much as she could as a 2-year-old on the dirt, but we always thought she'd be a better turf filly," she explained. "So to have her run as big as she did Preakness weekend [when second in an allowance at Pimlico] and then with the allowance win and then to win the stakes last weekend, it's just so satisfying because it just confirms what we thought of her ability on the turf."

Six-year-old Maryland-bred Whereshetoldmetogo was already a well-seasoned veteran when he came to Russell's barn last summer and has proven to be a good teacher, winning four of his seven attempts since his move back to Maryland. Russell quickly learned that the gelding makes it clear when he needs a break and after finishing ninth last out, he was given a brief freshening before this start.

"You can just see a difference in his attitude and physically, you have to give the partnership a big pat on the back for just letting us do what we have to do with him," she said. "He's an older horse with a lot of ability but he's had his issues along the way so you just kind of have to take care of him when he shows you that he needs a little TLC. He's a warrior. When you keep him happy, he's going to try his eyeballs out for you."

Owned by Madaket Stables, Ten Strike Racing, Michael Kisber and BTR Racing, the chestnut son of El Padrino ran his career mark to 11 wins and $623,791 in 27 starts for trainers Anthony Pecoraro, Brad Cox and now Russell.

While Russell has only been training on her own since 2018, she had plenty experience behind her when she finally took the leap into opening her own barn. She spent time with Brad Cox, Jimmy Jerkens, Ron Moquett and Jonathan Sheppard. One of those jobs led to her meeting the man she calls the foundation of her team.

"[Luis Barajas] was with me when I was an assistant for Ron Moquett," she said when asked about her barn's success. "He's been through it all with me, the good and the bad–there was a time when we had almost 30 horses in the barn and then we got down to five and he stayed with me. He's the foundation, he's built the team and I've got great riders and great grooms. I have a few different strings now and to have good people in your barn is what makes the business grow and the business succeed."

That team has led to nearly 60 percent of Russell's starters hitting the board during her three years of training with more than 25 percent winning when they're led

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Out of Sorts (left) and Whereshetoldmetogo accounted for back-to-back stakes wins on July 3 for trainer Brittany Russell.

Yes This Time won the Grade 3 Kent Stakes going 1⅛ miles on the turf.

Crazy Beautiful strolled home by 6 lengths in the Grade 3 Delaware Oaks.

over. Always confident that the horse she's entering will run a big race, Russell also explained that those statistics have been crucial in growing her client base.

"It is exciting," she said of the percentages. "In a sense it's pressure because when you're getting started, you're trying to get better horses and clients in the barn so your horses have to run well. Nobody's going to send you horses if they're not performing so hitting the board is important. We walk everything over there thinking we have a shot to win a race so being 1-2-3, that's huge. We're just trying to do the right thing for everyone—the horses and the people."

Both her stakes winners will look to pad her stats even more in coming months, but it's likely Whereshetoldmetogo will be seen first. Russell reported that only days after his win he'd been bouncing around like he hadn't even run, so a quick return to action was on the schedule.

Russell has plans to give Out of Sorts a chance to race on the big stage this year, but is giving her a breather first.

"I do believe we'll try something bigger because she's done nothing wrong and as a 3-year-old you kind of want to test them a bit," she said. "We have a few ideas, the Virginia Oaks is an idea and it's not until the end of August but it will be up to her."

Russell has expanded her operation to multiple tracks in recent months but for her, the Mid-Atlantic will always be home.

"I was born in Pennsylvania and I kind of grew up around these racetracks. Sheldon and I got married and he's based in Maryland and it just seemed like a good place to race and raise our family."

July 3 Fireworks

The day before Independence Day was a big one for Delaware as, in addition to Russell's stakes double, the Delaware Oaks-G3 for 3-year-old fillies and Kent Stakes-G3 for 3-year-old turf horses took center stage.

Edge Racing's Yes This Time won the Kent as the favorite, rallying up the rail late to score by a length over Like the King with Wootton Asset (Fr) another length back in third. Trained by Kelly Breen, Yes This Time won his fifth consecutive race after opening with a loss at Gulfstream Park in January. Joe Bravo rode the son of Not This Time, who was bred in Kentucky by Barry Golden.

One race later, Phoenix Thoroughbred III's Crazy Beautiful continued her tour of the United States with a victory in the Oaks. The daughter of Liam's Map, bred in Kentucky by Carolyn Vogel, opened the year with a second in the Davona Dale Stakes-G2 at Gulfstream Park, then won the Gulfstream Park Oaks-G2 at that track and was a well-beaten 10th in the Kentucky Oaks-G1 at Churchill Downs April 30. A month later, trainer Kenny McPeek sent her to Santa Anita and she knocked off favorite Soothsay and two others in the Summertime Oaks-G2. Shipped back to McPeek's base at Churchill Downs, she shipped to Delaware and won again—in a 6-length romp—for Hall of Fame jockey Mike Smith, improving to 5-for-10 lifetime and pushing her earnings to $700,865. McPeek paid $250,000 for the gray filly at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky's October yearling sale in 2019.

NOTES: Jamie Ness was running away with the trainers' standings, as he had 18 wins from 76 starts through July 12. Smaller barns filled the next four placings with Andy Simoff sitting second on eight wins (24 starts), followed by Jane Cibelli, Juan Arriagada and Anthony Pecoraro with seven each. Each had fewer than 30 starts. Scotty Silver, yes named for the jockeys' agent, won for Simoff in late June . . . Jaime Rodriguez led the jockeys' list with 31 wins, 11 more than Carol Cedeno . . . The Ness-owned stable Jagger Inc. was battling Bell Gable Stable atop the owners' board with five wins apiece, though Jagger held a slight lead by earnings. ✹

Stakes results for Delaware Park

6/9 Obeah ($100K). 1 1/16 mi. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **DREAM MARIE** (gr./ro.f., 4, Graydar—Lin Marie, by Curlin). B-Wynnstay LLC and GWR LLC (Ky.). O-Miracle's International Trading Inc. T-Matthew J. Williams. J-Joe Bravo. Time: 1:44.40. Margin: 1¾. 2nd: **Miss Marissa**. 3rd: **Market Rumor**.

7/3 Delaware Oaks-G3 ($300K). 1 1/16 mi. 3YO F.

Winner: **CRAZY BEAUTIFUL** (gr./ro.f., Liam's Map—Indian Burn, by Indian Charlie). B-Carolyn R. Vogel (Ky.). O-Phoenix Thoroughbred III. T-Kenneth G. McPeek. J-Mike E. Smith. Time: 1:46.33. Margin: 6. 2nd: **Midnight Obsession**. 3rd: **Leader of the Band**.

7/3 Kent-G3 ($150K). 1⅛ mi. Turf. 3YO.

Winner: **YES THIS TIME** (ch.c., Not This Time—Smart Jilly, by Smart Strike). B-Barry S. Golden (Ky.). O-Edge Racing. T-Kelly J. Breen. J-Joe Bravo. Time: 1:52.39. Margin: 1. 2nd: **Like the King**. 3rd: **Wootton Asset (Fr)**.

7/3 Christiana ($75K). 1 1/16 mi. Turf. 3YO F.

Winner: **OUT OF SORTS** (dk.b./br.f., Dramedy—Dear to All, by Tale of the Cat). B-James A. Justiss (Ky.). O-Respect the Valleys LLC. T-Brittany Russell. J-Sheldon Russell. Time: 1:44.29. Margin: 3. 2nd: **Caldee**. 3rd: **Mia Martina**.

7/3 Alapocas Run ($50K). 6 F. 3&up.

Winner: **WHERESHETOLDMETOGO** (ch.g., 6, El Padrino—Undisputed Legend, by Domestic Dispute). B-David H. Wade (Md.). O-Madaket Stables, Ten Strike Racing, Michael E. Kisber and BTR Racing Inc. T-Brittany Russell. J-Sheldon Russell. Time: 1:10.89. Margin: 4. 2nd: **Always Sunshine**. 3rd: **Golden Candy**.

STAKES WINNERS

Complete statistics on 2021 Mid-Atlantic-bred stakes winners available at MidAtlanticTB.com, including interactive pedigrees, race records, produce records of dam, and more.

COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Knicks Go galloped in the Grade 3 Prairie Meadows Cornhusker Handicap and earned a 113 Beyer Speed Figure, the highest of any horse at any distance this year. His bankroll grew to $4,833,995 from 21 starts.

Maryland-bred

ALWAYSINAHURRY, b.g., 2018, Great Notion—Otherwise Perfect, by Lemon Drop Kid. Bred by Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Quin Bowman & Rebecca Davis; owned by Mopo Racing; trained by Dale Capuano. $100,000 **Concern S**, 6 fur., 3YO, Pimlico, July 4.

ELLANATION, b.m., 2016, Alternation—Memories of Mystic, by Dixie Union. Bred & owned by Dark Hollow Farm; trained by Michael J. Trombetta. $75,000 **Jameela S**, 5 fur., turf, registered MD-bred or sired F&M, 3&up, Pimlico, July 4.

KNICKS GO, gr./ro.h., 2016, Paynter—Kosmo's Buddy, by Outflanker. Bred by Angie Moore; owned by Korea Racing Authority; trained by Brad H. Cox. $3,000,000 **Pegasus World Cup Invitational S-G1**, 1⅛ mi., 4 & up, Gulfstream, Jan. 23; $300,000 **Prairie Meadows Cornhusker H-G3**, 1⅛ mi., 3&up, Prairie Meadows, July 2.

RISING BELLA, dk.b./br.f., 2017, Munnings—Striking Bella, by Smart Strike. Bred by Timothy Rooney; owned by Lowell W. Kinch; trained by Steve Klesaris. $50,000 **Peach Blossom S**, 7½ fur., turf, DE-bred or certified F&M, 3&up, Delaware, July 7.

STREET LUTE, ch.f., 2018, Street Magician—Alottalute, by Midnight Lute. Bred by Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman & Dr. Brooke Bowman; owned by Lucky 7 Stables; trained by John J. Robb. $100,000 **Xtra Heat S**, 6 fur., 3-year-old fillies, Laurel, Jan. 16; $100,000 **Wide Country S**, 7 fur., 3-year-old fillies, Laurel, Feb. 20; $100,000 **Stormy Blues S**, 5 fur. (off turf), 3-year-old fillies, Pimlico, June 13; 3rd **Beyond The Wire S**.

TRIFOR GOLD, b.g., 2016, Tritap—Gold Scammer, by Gold Tribute. Bred & owned by Copper Penny Stables; trained by Mark Shuman. $50,000 **Sussex S**, 7½ fur., turf, DE-bred or certified, 3&up, Delaware, July 8.

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WHERESHETOLDMETOGO, ch.g., 2015, El Padrino—Undisputed Legend, by Domestic Dispute. Bred by David H. Wade; owned by Madaket Stables LLC, Ten Strike Racing, Michael E. Kisber & BTR Racing Inc.; trained by Brittany Russell. $75,000 **Not For Love S**, 6 fur., registered MD-bred or sired, 4 & up, Laurel, March 13; $50,000 **Alapocas Run S**, 6 fur., 3&up, Delaware, July 3.

New Jersey-bred

GOLDEN BROWN, dk.b./br.g., 2015, Offlee Wild—Suzee Sunrise, by Chester House. Bred by Esther de Jong; owned by ABL Stable, Dominic Bossone, Peter Donnelly & Nadine Schnoor; trained by Patrick B. McBurney. $75,000 **John J. Reilly H**, 6 fur., registered N.J.-breds, 3&up, Monmouth, July 4; 2nd **Mr. Prospector S**.

GROOVY SURPRISE, b.f., 2017, Giant Surprise—Good and Groovy, by Good and Tough. Bred & owned by Hope Haskell Jones; trained by Rory K. Huston. $75,000 **Smart N Classy H**, 1 mi., registered N.J.-bred F&M, 3&up, Monmouth, June 27; 3rd **Spruce Fir H**.

Pennsylvania-bred

BEREN, b.c., 2018, Weigelia—Silmaril, by Diamond. Bred & owned by Susan C. Quick & Christopher J. Feifarek; trained by Robert E. Reid Jr. $100,000 **Gold Fever S**, 6 fur., 3YO, Belmont, May 9; $100,000 **Paradise Creek S**, 7 fur. (off turf), 3YO, Belmont, May 30; $100,000 **Crowd Pleaser S**, 1 1/16 mi. (off turf), registered PA-bred 3YO, Parx, June 22.

CARAVEL, gr./ro.f., 2017, Mizzen Mast—Zeezee Zoomzoom, by Congrats. Bred, owned & trained by Elizabeth M. Merryman. $100,000 **The Very One S**, 5 fur., turf, F&M, 3&up, Pimlico, May 14; $75,000 **Goldwood S**, 5 fur., turf, F&M, 3&up, Monmouth, June 25; 3rd **License Fee S**.

CHUB WAGON, b.f., 2017, Hey Chub—Takin the Plunge, by Lion Heart. Bred by Joe-Dan Farm & George Chestnut; owned by Daniel J. Lopez & George Chestnut; trained by Guadalupe Preciado. $100,000 **Unique Bella S**, 7 fur., registered PA-bred F&M, 3&up, Parx, April 27; $100,000 **Skipat S**, 6 fur., F&M, 3&up, Pimlico, May 15; $100,000 **Shine Again S**, 6 fur., F&M, 3&up, Pimlico, June 13; $100,000 **Dashing Beauty S**, 6 fur., F&M, 3&up, Delaware, July 10.

HEY MAMALUKE, dk.b./br.m., 2016, Jump Start—Pu Dew, by Lucky Lionel. Bred & owned by Joseph Capriglione; trained by Patricia Farro. $100,000 **Power by Far S**, 5 fur. (off turf), registered PA-bred F&M, 3&up, Parx, June 22.

THE CRITICAL WAY, dk.b./br.g., 2014, Tizway—Critical Factor, by Star de Naskra. Bred by Blackstone Farm LLC; owned by Monster Racing Stables; trained by Jose H. Delgado. $75,000 **Turf Dash S**, 5 fur., turf, 4 & up, Tampa Bay, Feb. 24; $75,000 **Get Serious S**, 5 fur., turf, 3&up, Monmouth, June 19; 2nd **Jim McKay Turf Sprint S**; 3rd **Shakertown S-G2, Janus S**.

VALUED NOTION, dk.b./br.g., 2017, Great Notion—What Am I Gonna Do, by Partner's Hero. Bred by Steven Long & Jane Long; owned by Hillwood Stable LLC; trained by Rodney Jenkins. $75,000 **Ben's Cat S**, 5 fur. (off turf), registered MD-bred or sired, 3&up, Pimlico, June 13.

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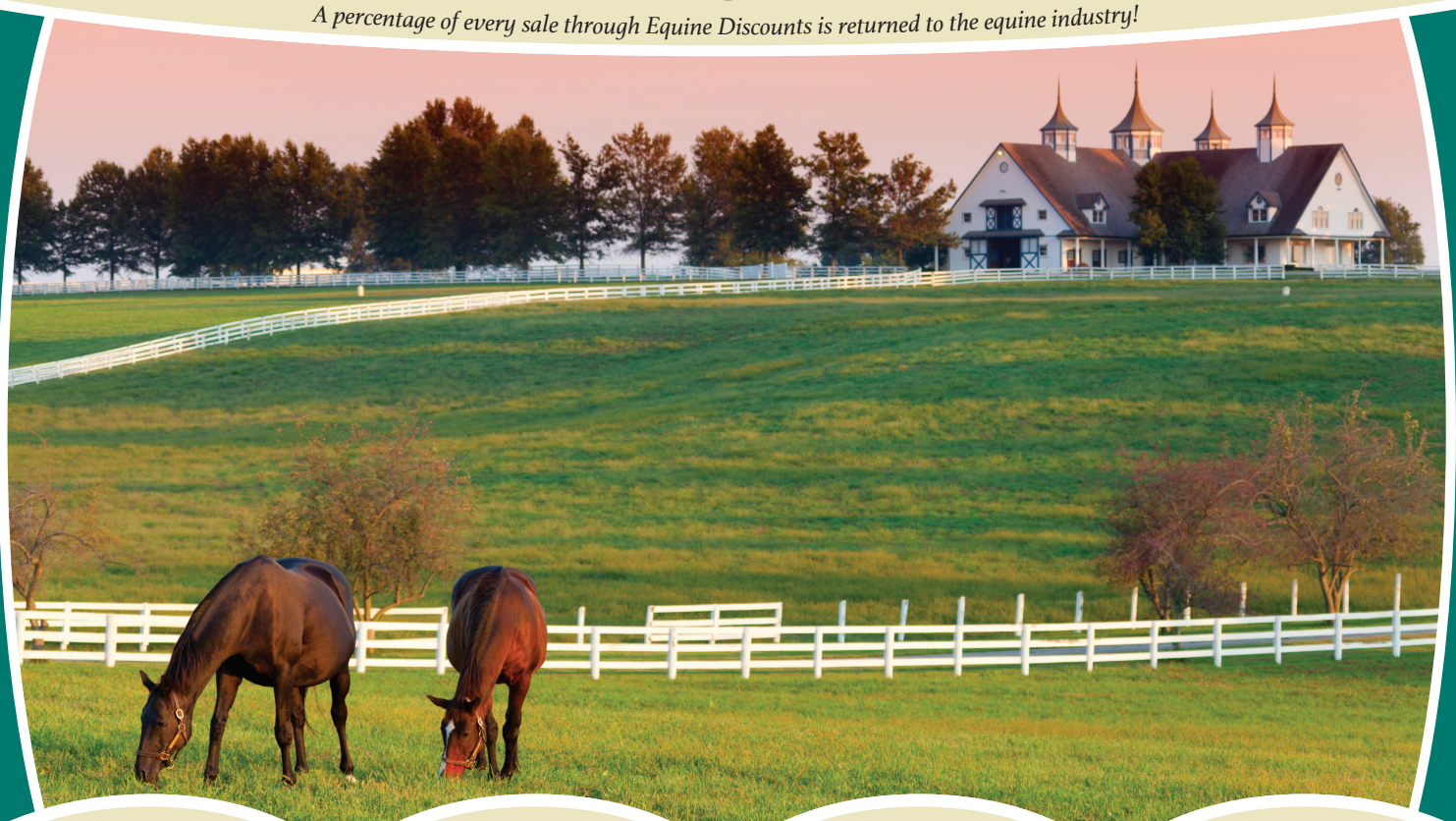

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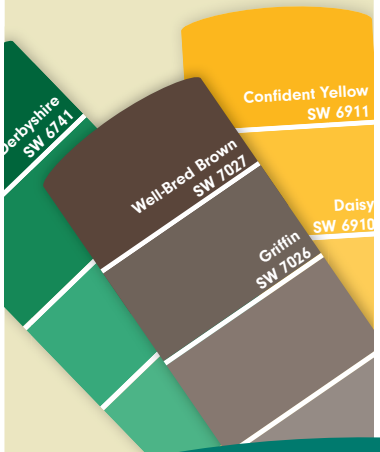

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Building Blocks

Standout homebred 3-year-old Beren extends success for St. Omer's Farm

BY PAUL HALLORAN. PHOTOGRAPHS BY EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Susan and Stephen Quick bought St. Omer's Farm in Forest Hill, Md., in 1976. They started living there a year later, after completing extensive renovations. In 1978, ready to give the breeding game a try, they paid $5,400 for their first broodmare, Pilgrim's Pride, a Virginia-bred who was barren at the time.

Humble beginnings indeed.

Four decades and four generations later, the pedigree line is going strong, with Beren, a Pennsylvania-bred great-great grandson of Pilgrim's Pride, approaching $300,000 in earnings heading into an anticipated stakes start at Saratoga, seeking his third stakes win on the NYRA circuit.

"He kind of figured out what he was supposed to do," said Quick, whose Parx-based horse that she bred and owns with longtime business partner Dr. Christopher Feifarek lost his first four starts. "It's fun having a good one."

Make that the latest in a long line of good ones, all from the same family.

Shortly after buying Pilgrim's Pride, the Quicks bred her to North Sea, who has the same sire (Nearctic) and damsire (Native Dancer), as Northern Dancer.

"Steve [who passed away in 2019] didn't know anything about Thoroughbreds, but he knew about Northern Dancer," Quick said. "Everyone wanted to breed to Northern Dancer, but we couldn't do that, so he found North Sea, who had similar breeding to Northern Dancer."

That initial mating produced Kattegat's Pride, a three-time Maryland-bred champion who won 19 races in 54 starts, including nine stakes and the 1984 Gallorette-G3 at Pimlico, and earned $511,812. The gray mare also placed in eight stakes, with

Beren cruises to victory in the Crowd Pleaser Stakes for breeders/owners Sue Quick and Christopher Feifarek in June.

a runner-up finish in the 1985 Barbara Fritchie-G3 at Laurel.

When it was Kattegat's Pride's turn to become a broodmare, the Quicks bred her to Spend a Buck, the 1985 Kentucky Derby champion and Horse of the Year. Kattebuck, foaled in 1988 and owned by Steve Quick in partnership with Feifarek, only managed one win in 16 career starts, a maiden win at Delaware Park in her 12th attempt. The only filly of Kattegat's Pride's four offspring, she was retired after her 4-year-old campaign in 1992.

Kattebuck may not have produced on the track, but her breeding with Diamond, a son of Mr. Prospector who stood in Maryland until 2006, resulted in Silmaril, foaled in 2001. Silmaril went 36-16-7-3, won 12 stakes and banked more than $1 million. In the 2005 Pimlico Breeders' Cup Distaff-G3, Silmaril–named for jewels in J.R.R. Tolkein's works–beat two-time Eclipse Award winner Ashado. Silmaril earned more than $400,000 in 2007 alone.

Silmaril won her only start in 2008 before becoming a broodmare. She has had mixed results, with her most successful offspring a Tapizar filly named Our Star, bred by Feifarek and foaled in 2016, who has won five of 20 starts and earned $121,693 through July 15.

Then there is Beren.

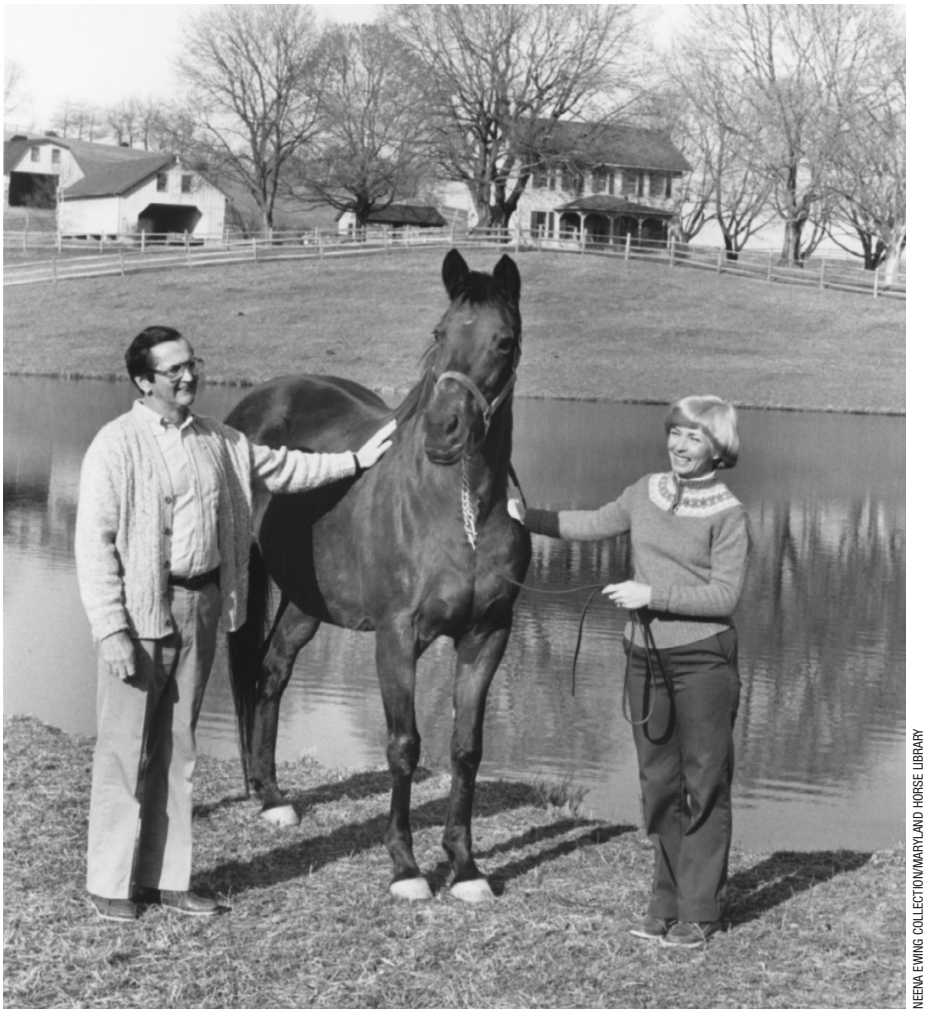
After breeding and running horses in Maryland for almost 30 years, the partnership expanded to Pennsylvania thanks to incentives the state offered to breeders and owners of horses foaled in the state. The big move went just 15 miles from St. Omer's, to Delta, Pa., and expanded into WynOaks Farm, which Sue Quick's son, Chip Wheeler, and his wife, Barbara, have been running for 15 years.

In 2008, Wheeler traveled to Ocala in search of a stallion and came upon Weigelia, a graded stakes winner and million-dollar earner who had just been retired by owner Joseph Balsamo–although someone apparently forgot to tell the horse he was done racing.

"He was still on the racing shedrow and he was as rank as you can get. He still is," Wheeler said. "He is tough every day."

Weigelia is by Safely's Mark out of New York-bred mare Turning North, who ran almost exclusively in the mid-Atlantic, mainly at Philadelphia Park. Wheeler bought him and took him back to WynOaks, where he has been standing since.

The Quicks and Feifarek took Silmaril to several big-name stallions–More Than Ready, Exchange Rate, Blame, Jump Start–before breeding her to Weigelia for the first time in 2014. That did not work out well, as Nine Toe Billy was winless in four career starts. Fortunately, they tried again in 2017 and on April 8, 2018, the Wheelers foaled Beren at WynOaks.



NEENA EWING COLLECTION/MARYLAND HORSE LIBRARY

Steve and Sue Quick with their foundation mare Pilgrim's Pride at St. Omer's Farm in 1983.

"They bred her to everything in Kentucky they could afford, meanwhile the right one was in the backyard," Wheeler said.

When it came time to pick a trainer, Quick, who owns Beren in partnership with Feifarek, called Parx-based Butch Reid, whom she knew had been successful with Weigelia progeny–including Smooth B, whose career earnings improved to $499,538 with a fourth at Saratoga July 16. Reid thought he had a good one, and even ran him in the Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes for 2-year-olds as a maiden.

"After the first few starts, we knew he was a quality horse, but nowhere near the level he is now," Reid said from Saratoga, a few hours before sending out Mainstay to run second in the Schuylerville-G3 on opening day.

Reid spent a lot of time in Florida over the winter and was pleasantly surprised to get a look at Beren–named for a hero in the Tolkein books–when he returned.

"He looked like a different horse," said Reid, who trained last year's champion 2-year-old filly Vequist, a half-sister to Mainstay. "He put on weight and was more mature. He was a more serious horse."

The physical and mental growth translated to the racetrack. Beren broke his maiden at Parx in his second start of 2021 and followed that with an allowance win as the odds-on favorite, prompting Reid to take a shot in the Bay Shore-G3 at Aqueduct on the Wood Memorial undercard. A bad stumble at the start eliminated any chance.

"When you're a 3-year-old, after the a-other-than, you almost have to go in a stakes," Reid said. "Unfortunately, he fell on his nose that day coming out of the gate, but he got enough out of that race to take another shot."

Reid brought Beren back to New York to win a pair of 3-year-old stakes at Belmont–the Gold Fever May 9 and the

Paradise Creek May 30. He upset Candy Man Rocket to win the Gold Fever by a nose, then romped by 10¾ lengths in the slop in the Paradise Creek. "The Weigelias love the mud," Quick said.

The next logical spot was the $100,000 Crowd Pleaser Stakes June 22 at Parx, the only stakes this year for Pennsylvania-bred 3-year-old colts. Reid was willing to take a shot on the turf, but when the 1 1/16-mile race was rained off, that was even better and Beren rolled to another easy win.

That made it three in a row and five of six and earned Beren the trip to Saratoga, where Reid nominated him for three 3-year-old stakes: the Curlin July 30, the Jim Dandy-G2 July 31 and the Amsterdam-G2 Aug. 1. Reid was leaning toward the Curlin, as the Jim Dandy was coming up very tough and the Amsterdam is a sprint.

Quick, who saw her horse run in person for the first time in the Crowd Pleaser, was not planning to make the seven-hour drive north to Saratoga, but was excited nonetheless.

"It's fun having a good one," said Quick, who still lives at St. Omer's, where she has 96 horses and five employees. They primarily raise babies and sell them as yearlings.

Perhaps Beren's recent success might even translate to monetary gain for Wheeler, who said he doesn't charge a stud fee to breed to Weigelia.

"I quit trying. I started breeding him for free," said Wheeler, whose stallion covers a few dozen mares each year, many repeat engagements.

That includes Silmaril, who was again bred to Weigelia last year, resulting in a full-brother to Beren this spring.

Call him Generation Six.

NOTES: Hey Mamaluke won the $100,000 Power by Far Stakes for Pennsylvania-breds on the same card as the Crowd Pleaser. The Joseph Capriglione homebred, by Jump Start out of the Lucky Lionel mare Pu Dew, is trained by Patricia Farro and was ridden by Silvestre Gonzalez . . . The following day, the leading horse by earnings at Parx this year, Admiral Abe, won an allowance to bring his 2021 total to $170,930. Beren had earned $153,490 of his overall $275,490 this year at the Pennsylvania oval, with the rest garnered in New York . . . Parx-based Brooklyn Strong, the 2020 champion New York-bred male, is being given a 90-day freshening. Owned by Mark Schwartz and trained by Danny Velazquez, Brooklyn Strong was a late entry into the Kentucky Derby-G1, in which he finished 15th. The connections considered running him in the Belmont Stakes-G1, but opted for the Pegasus Stakes at Monmouth June 13. After Brooklyn Strong ran a dull fourth and followed it with an average workout July 3, Velazquez decided he needed a break. "Just not the same horse since the Derby," he said. "He needs to get his head and his heart back in it." As a 3-year-old gelding, he has nothing but time. ✹

Hey Mamaluke floats to her first stakes win in the Power by Far Stakes.

June stakes results for Parx Racing

6/22 Crowd Pleaser ($100K). 1 1/16 mi. Off Turf. Reg. PA-Bred 3YO.

Winner: **BEREN** (b.c., Weigelia—Silmaril, by Diamond). B-Susan C. Quick and Christopher J. Feifarek (Pa.). O-St. Omer's Farm and Christopher J. Feifarek. T-Robert E. Reid Jr. J-Frankie Pennington. Time: 1:44.89. Margin: 9½. 2nd: **Like a Saltshaker**. 3rd: **Fire's Finale**.

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6/22 Power by Far ($100K). 5 F. Off Turf. Reg. PA-Bred, 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **HEY MAMALUKE** (dk.b./br.m., 5, Jump Start—Pu Dew, by Lucky Lionel). B/O-Joseph Capriglione (Pa.). T-Patricia Farro. J-Silvestre Gonzalez. Time: :57.66. Margin: 1¾. 2nd: **Precious**. 3rd: **Tara's Talent**.

STALLION NEWS

by Cindy Deubler

Freshmen sires get first winners

ANCHOR AND HOPE'S HOLY BOSS

Holy Boss had a number of firsts June 16 at Delaware Park—his first starter and first winner from his first North American crop.

Show'em Who's Boss, a gray/roan filly owned by M3 Racing Stable and trained by Andrew L. Simoff, was the 8-5 favorite in the field of seven 2-year-old fillies, survived a bump at the start and cruised home by 5½ lengths while geared down.

Bred in Maryland by Lady Olivia at Northcliff LLC, Show'em Who's Boss is out of the Tapit mare White Eye Julia I.

Graded stakes-winning sprinter Holy Boss stood his first U.S. season in 2018 at Louis and Grace Merryman's Anchor & Hope Farm in Port Deposit, Md., after retiring from the track in late spring 2017 and covering his first mares in Argentina that fall. A dual-hemisphere stallion in each of his four breeding seasons, the 9-year-old son of Street Boss has 44 2-year-olds in his first U.S. crop.

Holy Boss retired sound after a 22-start career in which he earned eight 100 or higher Beyer figures and $771,527. He is a half-brother to Canadian champion 3-year-old filly Holy Helena.

Out of winning Holy Bull mare Holy Grace, Holy Boss is from the family of leading sires A.P. Indy, Raja Baba and Gay Mecene. The property of a syndicate, he stood the 2020 season for $1,000.

COUNTRY LIFE FARM'S DIVINING ROD

Classic-placed Divining Rod, a son of Tapit standing at Country Life Farm in Bel Air, Md., got his first winner when Carnaval Conquest led throughout in his debut for a 4¾-length win at Fanduel Sportsbook and Horse Racing (Fairmount Park) in Illinois July 6. Five days later, Mr. Mox became his second winner with a gutsy performance first time out at Pimlico, leading all the way and winning in a three-horse photo.

Carnaval Conquest, bred in Illinois by Mary Obermier, races for GAB Secret Acres. He is out of the winning Queen Nine (by Henny Hughes), who was owned by Eclipse Award-winning breeders Ken and Sarah Ramsey at the time she was bred to Divining Rod.

Mr. Mox was bred in Maryland by Country Life Farm and Glennie Martin out of the Wayne County (Ire) mare Lady Krista and races for Morris E. Kernan Jr. and Jagger Inc.

The most popular stallion in Maryland his first year at stud, 9-year-old Divining Rod has 68 registered foals in his first crop. A graded stakes winner of $882,604, he is out of Grade 1 winner and $1,912,543-earner Precious Kitten, a half-sister to the Ramseys' champion and two-time leading sire Kitten's Joy. Owned by Country Life, Gainesway Farm and Lael Stables, his stud fee is $5,000.

Top Mid-Atlantic sires of 2021

Based on 2021 earnings through July 18

(D-deceased; R-retired)

General earnings

Sire	*rnrs*	*wnrs*	*earnings*
Wicked Strong (Pa)	147	56	$2,180,536
Jump Start (Pa-D)	106	34	1,814,126
Great Notion (Md)	71	29	1,404,142
Warrior's Reward (Pa)	113	45	1,350,561
Fiber Sonde (WV)	78	37	1,325,968
Golden Lad (Md)	58	28	1,275,771
Windsor Castle (WV-D)	71	38	1,194,436
Poseidon's Warrior (Pa)	66	24	1,173,907
El Padrino (Pa-D)	69	24	1,155,237
Bandbox (Md-D)	49	22	959,188

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Snap Decision increases win streak to nine with romp in Grade 1 Iroquois

BY SEAN CLANCY. PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOD MARKS

And that makes nine.

Snap Decision tied the modern-day American steeplechase winning streak with his ninth consecutive, tacking on the Grade 1 Calvin Houghland Iroquois at the Iroquois Steeplechase in Nashville, Tenn., June 26. Owned by Bruton Street-US, trained by Jack Fisher and ridden by Graham Watters, the 7-year-old son of Hard Spun towered above his five rivals and toyed with the race's 2¾-mile distance (shortened from 3 miles), strolling to a 3½-length win over Irv Naylor's Amschel (GB) and Bedrock (GB).

"He's a horse of a lifetime," Watters said after winning his first Grade 1 stakes.

In a lifetime of horses, that's saying something. Jockeys Tom Garner and Jamie Bargary (well beaten by Watters and Snap Decision in the $100,000 race) made sure their friend's achievement was recognized with a bucket of water on a steamy afternoon in Nashville.

Watters cajoled a headstrong Snap Decision into a third slot, well off stablemate New Member (Ire) and just off Amschel. Another stablemate and arguably Snap Decision's most potent competitor, Footpad (Fr), fell at the fourth hurdle, reducing the field to five and increasing the chess moves. After a circuit of the mile-and-a-half oval, Bernie Dalton aboard Galway Kid (Ire) played the first move, sliding into Snap Decision's slipstream.

"I jumped off where I wanted to be and we went a nice even gallop," Watters said. "Bernie came straight to my girth to make me keener, I winged two fences and passed Amschel and went up to New Member. He was so bloody strong with me, thanks to Bernie. That changed my tactics, I could have won nice and easy on the bridle, but I had to grab the bull by the horns and take it up early. Snap then just pricked his ears. It made it a little harder work than I

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Snap Decision zips over the last fence on the way to winning the Iroquois, his record-tying ninth consecutive win.

wanted, but he was still head and shoulders above the rest of them."

Like a giraffe to a toad.

Leaving the backside and climbing the soul-searching hill, Snap Decision inhaled New Member and towed Bedrock and Amschel as if they were water-skiers behind a jet boat. The 2020 novice champion met the second-last hurdle on a perfect stride, Watters looked between his legs once, then over his shoulder to see the gallant but spent Bedrock. Checkmate. Snap Decision met the last just as perfectly, Watters slapped him once underhanded, the big horse waved his tail at the insult and Watters stood up, pumped his left fist to the crowd along the inside rail.

"I feel privileged to ride him," the jockey said. "The hardest part about him is to keep him settled. All he wants to do is race. He's got so much guts."

Bred by the vaunted Phipps Stable, Snap Decision won twice on the flat for Shug McGaughey before joining Fisher's stable in 2018. He's been in the rafters ever since, finishing second in his first two starts (April and May 2019) before going on a roll unseen around here since Thrice Worthy racked up nine wins in the early 1980s.

A front-running tour de force, Thrice Worthy won his first nine starts over jumps and set the standard for consistency. Snap Decision may have lost his first two, but he's revolutionizing that standard.

Willie McCarthy partnered Snap Decision in his first six starts (four wins: Monmouth Park maiden, Saratoga allowance, Belmont novice stakes and Far Hills novice stakes), but was injured last spring. Sean McDermott guided him in his next three wins but opted for Footpad this spring. Watters leapt at the chance to ride the stout bay gelding while taking the coveted first-call job with Fisher.

"I feel very fortunate but at the same time I've had a long enough career now to grab the opportunity and appreciate it. It's been a long road to now," Watters said. "Jack had offered me the ride on him when Willie got hurt but I couldn't take it because I would have lost my job with the Naylors, it just shows if something is meant to be, it will come around for you."

Snap Decision came around for Watters with his second graded stakes romp this spring, pushing the 29-year-old Irishman to the top of the jockey standings with 11 wins, two ahead of Garner heading into the summer.

Irv Naylor's Chief Justice (yellow cap) outduels Baltimore Bucko (left) and Master Gunner in the Green Pastures novice hurdle stakes at the Iroquois.

Watters doubled on the card, winning the allowance timber aboard Fisher-trained Storm Team. With two deflating losses this spring, Storm Team made amends with a front-running scamper for Sheila Williams and Northwoods Stable. Tomgarrow (Ire) ran hard to be beaten 3 lengths in second, it was 16 lengths back to Rakhaa (GB) in third.

"He ran his heart out the first two times, he's still relatively inexperienced, he gets away on enthusiasm," Watters said. "He put in a fantastic round of jumping, he was the only one to jump a full round because he was in front and jumped all the jumps on the first circuit, they were only half jumps after that. He's been running great races, but he's been second, you're questioning yourself, 'Did I go too soon? Did I do too much on him? Did I not do enough on him?' We got the tactics right."

The iconic spring meet was pushed back from its standard second Saturday in May date to allow for Covid restrictions to be lifted. Held at the expansive Percy Warner Park, the seven-race card attracted more than 15,000 fans, without a mask, a sanitizing station or a temperature check in sight. It felt like old times and is perhaps a sign of more things to come.

Steeplechasing lost much of its 2020 season to Covid, shrinking an already small sport and impacting the horse population, ownership ranks, training businesses, new horse purchases and a long list of charities that benefit from race meets in the region. The entire 2020 schedule included just 80 races, and the 2021 spring program did not include Aiken, Foxfield and Fair Hill and several meets shifted their dates to later weekends while trying to maximize the chance of spectators being allowed. The result was 68 spring races, purses of $1,394,075 and 489 starts by 243 horses, all significant decreases from pre-Covid times, but also a potential path to normalcy after the decimation of 2020.

"It's a rebuilding process and it's going to take time," said Bill Gallo, the National Steeplechase Association's director of racing. "Horsemen and race meets have dealt with a lot over the past year and a half, but you can see signs of progress in the number of races we had, the interest from owners and trainers and the support race meets received from spectators."

Nashville Hits

Jamie Bargary guided Chief Justice (GB) to win the Green Pastures novice hurdle stakes for Irv Naylor and trainer Cyril Murphy. The 6-year-old pressed the pace and staved off Baltimore Bucko (GB) and Master Gunner in a thriller as the first three were separated by a head and a neck. In his first stint here, Irishman Bargary notched three quick wins from 25 rides.

Imported two years ago, Chief Justice earned six checks without winning while competing at the top of the sport. The five-time winner in England deserved a big one and got it after placing in two stakes and finishing fourth in two others in 2019 and 2020. The son of Acclamation (GB) opened 2021 with a pull-up at the Queens' Cup in April, and was fifth in the David Semmes Memorial at Great Meadow in May. He put his experience to good use in the Green Pastures, ousting 11 others in the 2¼-mile test.

Note to trainers, say yes to the television appearance. While trying her hand at

Irish steeplechasing this winter, Keri Brion was interviewed on Racing TV about her horse French Light (Fr) before he ran at Ireland's Clonmel Racecourse. A few days later, she got a Facebook message from potential owner Phillip Rann.

"He said, 'You're interesting and American racing is a bit fascinating. Find me a horse,'" said Brion, who got to work and unearthed an unnamed 4-year-old hurdle prospect. Rann, who owns Mill Farm Stud in England, paid Brion back by naming the son of Presenting (GB) for her. And, in his second start, Keri's Find (Ire) won the $20,000 maiden hurdle at the Iroquois.

"The name was not my idea," said Brion of a horse who goes by "Scooter" around the barn. "That's the very last thing I wanted."

But here he is. Part of a field of eight, the chestnut broke alertly, led early, dropped back to fourth on the final turn and then stayed on to reel in Nice To Meet Ya (Ire) and Plenty In The Tank (Ire) and win by 1½ lengths for apprentice jockey Parker Hendriks. Carrying 141 pounds, up to 13 fewer than some others in the field, Keri's Find put that and his jumping ability to good use late.

"I told Parker that he was going to come off the bridle six [fences] from home but to not give up on him," said Brion, who also trains Nice To Meet Ya. "He's kind of one-paced, and that works there. He's a great jumper and he just kept trying."

A race later, Brion won again with rapidly ascending The Mean Queen (Ire). Purchased this winter, the daughter of Doyen (Ire) won a maiden hurdle at Wexford in April—making Brion the first American trainer to win a jump race in Ireland—and trounced male rivals in an allowance hurdle at the Virginia Gold Cup in late May. A month later, she thumped fellow distaffers in the $25,000 Margaret Currey Henley Stakes. Tom Garner guided the Buttonwood Farm charge from as far back as fifth early and steered her to a 3½-length tally over veteran Down Royal with Bercasa (Ire) third.

"She's different gravy," Brion said. "I don't know how good she is, but she just gets better and better every time."

Brion made the purchase for Buttonwood's Rod and Alice Moorhead via Irish trainer James Doyle of Baltimore Stable. Doyle touted the filly as an American prospect, and sent Brion video of training and schooling sessions. Brion went to the Moorheads with the idea, and the purchase was made.

"They love a mare because they have a breeding program," said Brion of the Moorheads, who have several mares on the farm in Pennsylvania. "James said she was a really special mare and he was right."

Also at Nashville, Mighty Mark won his third race of the spring with a 4-length score in a handicap hurdle for owner Irv Naylor, trainer Kathy Neilson and her daughter/jockey Skylar McKenna. Neilson bought the now 5-year-old son of Temple

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City for $6,000 at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's May sale of 2-year-olds in 2018. He won over hurdles the next October, added a flat win at Parx Racing in October 2020 and won all three of his hurdle starts in 2021, the last two for Naylor after making the purchase from Neilson.

Princeville (NZ) eked out a nose victory in a maiden hurdle for Fearnought Farm, trainer Doug Fout and jockey Barry John Foley. The 7-year-old sat close to the pace and won a head bob over Market Bubble. The son of Thewayyouare had registered three seconds, a third and a fourth in six American tries before earning his diploma at Nashville.

NOTES: Star European import Footpad (Fr) fell early in the Iroquois and was diagnosed with a ruptured superficial digital flexor tendon in his left knee. A Grade 1 winner in England, Ireland and France for Willie Mullins, the 9-year-old was expected to make a full recovery. . . Dethroned by the now-retired Jonathan Sheppard in 2020, Jack Fisher led the trainers' standings with eight wins (plus a dozen seconds and seven thirds) and $297,800 earned through June. Neilson (six wins) and Brion (five) completed the top three. . . Watters, riding first call for Fisher, won 11 races to take the lead among the jockeys, followed by Garner (nine) and Eddie Keating (seven). . . Naylor's seven wins and $151,800 showed the way among the owners, with Bruton Street-US (three wins and $140,950) second. . . Snap Decision's two stakes wins put him at $105,000 and atop the horse board while Maryland Hunt Cup winner Vintage Vinnie (Ire) was second and another timber horse Schoodic was third, though all that was about to change as racing shifted to Saratoga and Colonial Downs for the summer. . . The fall season looked to be relatively free of Covid impact, with a full slate of race meets including returnees High Hope in Kentucky and Foxfield in Virginia, the potential of a new course at Aiken in South Carolina and others filling out the condition book. ■

The Mean Queen (Ire) won for the third time for trainer Keri Brion and Buttonwood Farm owners Rod and Alice Moorhead. The mare's first win in Ireland last winter made Brion the first American trainer to win a jump race in that country.

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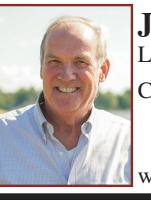

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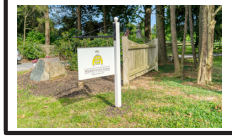
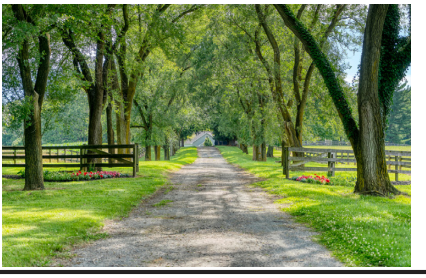
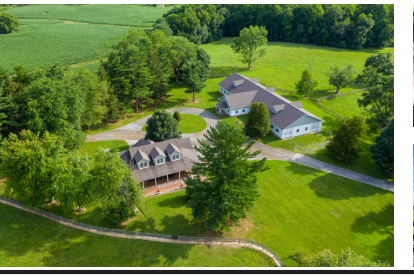

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In Memoriam

HARRIET STOKES IGLEHART

Harriet Iglehart died at her home on Carroll Branch Farm in Monkton, Md., July 1. She was 94.

A figure prominent in social, equestrian, agricultural, art, justice and environmental activities throughout Baltimore County, she remained active in all. She was renowned for her humor, kindness and generosity. In her book of poetry Happily, her niece Joan Allan Aleshire described her as "a woman filled with sun."

Born Harriet Austen Stokes, and raised in Glencoe, she grew up helping with the family dairy operation which adjoined Filston Farm Dairy and Oldfields School. Later, she would take off her muddy boots for social events, and was soon engaged to Francis N. Iglehart Jr. Harriet and "Ike" were, respectively, 19 and 21 years of age at their marriage, which lasted 60 years until his death in 2007.

When pressed, she would tell stories of her childhood, during which she caught the train from Glencoe every morning to attend Greenwood School in Ruxton. Between school work, farm work, and creating handmade cards for friends and family, she quickly became an accomplished rider, going on nearly daily adventures throughout the countryside with friends such as the late Celie Van Hollen, Betty Bosley, Nancy Sehlhorst and Frances Gould.

"I was a little older," once reminisced her lifelong friend, the late Sarah Bosley Secor, "but I tell you they were all over the place, like wild Indians! And that Harriet, she was just a natural with a horse."

From age 10, her performance at pony and horse shows made her one of the East Coast's top child riders. Some of these events she helped organize as fundraisers leading up to World War II, once successfully writing to the then-governor of Maryland for his support.

After the war and marriage, she and her husband acquired Carroll Branch Farm and bestowed happy and hard-working childhoods on their five children. She often joked with them that he forgot his promise beforehand not to make her a farmer. But the promise was kept nonetheless in their vibrant social, sporting, political, and philanthropic lives together, along with their many friends throughout Monkton, Baltimore County, and beyond.

Harriet was a tireless supporter of many cultural causes, such as Ladew Gardens and the newly emerging Center Stage. Her work with Planned Parenthood spanned 20 years. As a volunteer and eventual board

Harriet Stokes Iglehart

member, she often took directly to the streets of Baltimore to raise awareness of free health services available to those who often had access to no health care at all.

Amid these and all other pursuits, she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in English and literature at Johns Hopkins night school, wrote 48 articles for magazines, most notably for the *Maryland Horse*, and wrote for and edited the Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club newsletter for 23 years. She spent much time in the hunt field and on her farm riding her chestnut gelding, Shannon. She also served on the committees of the Elkridge-Harford Point-to-Point and My Lady's Manor steeplechase races, handling race publicity and trophy presentations. Her published work resulted in profiles of a wide range of people from all walks of life, often far from her own. She simultaneously kept Carroll Branch Farm in continual livestock or crop production for 63 years, as it is today.

Planned Parenthood honored her at a board dinner, at which another volunteer accidentally misspelled her name tag as "Harried." She immediately posted this apt error to her refrigerator door, where it remained for decades.

About her boundless energy and care, the late Sarah Secor once again captured her effect in saying, "All these places and causes where she has worked over the years—they all rely on her. They all say the same thing: 'I don't know what I would have done without Harriet. She's the one who always comes through.'"

Iglehart is survived by her brother John Austen Stokes, five children Hallie, Frank, Tom, Laney and John, three grandchildren, a great-grandchild, and numerous nieces and nephews.

At her request, a private family service will be held in her memory at St. James Church in Monkton. In lieu of flowers, donations may instead be sent in her honor to Planned Parenthood or The Manor Conservancy, P.O. Box 408, Monkton, MD 21111. *– Maryanna Skowronski*

MAGALEN BRYANT

Magalen Ohrstrom "Maggie" Bryant, whose racing career included success at all levels in France and the United States, died June 28 at her home in Virginia. She was 92.

Bryant won the 2014 Travers Stakes-G1 with V. E. Day, a $135,000 purchase as a 2-year-old. The son of English Channel won four consecutive races that year—going from maiden winner in May to allowance winner in July and then back-to-back stakes tallies at Saratoga. The Travers, by a nose

DOUGLAS LEES

Magalen Ohrstrom Bryant

over the Jimmy Jerkens-trained stablemate Wicked Strong, was the most rewarding and dramatic—and helped V. E. Day earn more than $1 million in a career that saw him race four times in France in 2016.

Bryant won a Grade 1 steeplechase, the 2013 Lonesome Glory at Belmont Park, with Gustavian and the 2018 David Semmes Memorial-G2 hurdle stakes with homebred Personal Start. She campaigned Ptarmigan, the National Steeplechase Association's filly/mare champion of 2010. Her French stable included Grand Steeplechase of Paris winners Milord Thomas (2015) and So French (2016 and 2017).

In addition to horses, Bryant maintained a herd of Angus and Hereford cattle and ran a hay operation on her 2,400-acre Locust Hill Farm in Middleburg, Va. The Land Trust of Virginia named Bryant Conservationist of the Year in 2011. She

was chairperson of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a board member of the National Wildlife Foundation and the WILD Foundation, a supporter of Peace Parks Foundation and a member of the American Bird Conservancy's Advisory Council.

BERT FIRESTONE

Thoroughbred owner and breeder Bertram R. Firestone died in Florida July 12 at age 89. With his wife Diana, he bred and/or campaigned such standouts as Genuine Risk, Theatrical (Ire), Paradise Creek, April Run (Ire), Honest Pleasure, General Assembly, Winchester and others over a long career in racing.

SKIP BALL COLLECTION/MARYLANDHORSE LIBRARY

Bertram R. Firestone

Firestone rode show horses as a young man, foxhunted with Piedmont and Middleburg in Virginia and with the Kildare Foxhounds in Ireland. He won his first races as an owner in the 1960s.

The operation expanded to include Gilltown Stud in Ireland, Big Sink Farm in Kentucky and Virginia's Catoctin at various times. The Firestones purchased Honest Pleasure as a Saratoga yearling, and he went on to be named champion 2-year-old male of 1975. The next year, he won three Grade 1 preps for the Kentucky Derby-G1, where he was second, and added the Travers-G1 in the summer. Four years later, in 1980, the Firestones won the Derby with Genuine Risk–just the second filly to win the historic race. She went on to finish second in the Preakness-G1 (part of the famous battle with Codex) and Belmont Stakes-G1.

Homebred Theatrical won an Eclipse Award as champion turf horse of 1987, a feat repeated by Paradise Creek in 1994. Bill Mott trained both for the Firestones. In addition, the Firestone-owned April Run won championships in France and the United States. As breeders, the Firestones produced 11 group/graded winners including Virginia-bred Grade 1 winners General Assembly, Chief Honcho and Winchester. The Firestones won an Eclipse Award as outstanding owner in 1980. Their green and white silks were often seen over jumps, too, as they won an Eclipse with Jimmy Lorenzo (GB) in 1988 and more recently campaigned steeplechase winner Lake Placid, a homebred.

In addition to his wife, Firestone is survived by daughter Alison and sons Matt, Greg and Tod and stepchildren, Lorna, Chris and Cricket.

RICH GLAZIER

Rich Glazier, the former paddock and television replay show host at Delaware Park, passed away June 22 at his home in Wilmington, Del. He was 73.

The Delaware native started his career at the Stanton oval as the host of the local replay show on cable in 1987. He also developed and hosted the *Delaware Racing Scene Show* highlighting the best of Delaware Park racing and the sport on the national level.

In his more than three decades at Delaware Park, Glazier held numerous positions including paddock handicapper and analyst, where he became popular with his interviews with almost every popular personality in Mid-Atlantic racing.

As a lifelong fan of Delaware Park, he took pride in only missing one Delaware Handicap, which was in 1968 while he was serving one of his two tours during his 18 months of service as a veteran in the intelligence division of the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Profiled in the June 2018 edition of *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*, Glazier worked as an accountant for 18 years after the Army and college. He loved racing, and Delaware Park, however and got to know replay show host Mike Walsh. Glazier filled in for Walsh once, got noticed and his duties gradually expanded to replay host, paddock host and public-relations contact.

Ultimately, he was as identifiable as the track's famous paddock and picnic grove with various props and schticks including Bungy the horse, the money tree, a video

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Rich Glazier

clip of a guy rolling down a hill to promote rolling doubles and pick threes and offbeat interview questions. Glazier asked trainer Jonathan Sheppard if he knew any of The Beatles growing up in England, talked sandwiches with Scott Lake and asked jockey Ramon Dominguez for a $50 loan.

"He was more than I could have ever hoped for when we brought him on board in 1987," said John Mooney, executive director of racing. "When he first approached me with the idea of working at Delaware Park and hosting a cable show highlighting racing, I was not sure. He was married with two young children and he wanted to give up his job as an accountant to work at a track that at the time was struggling. But he made it work and he did an incredible and professional job. He gained the respect of everyone and made friends throughout the industry. He was as great a representative for Delaware Park as there could be and he will be greatly missed."

Glazier is survived by his wife of 49 years, Amy; sons David and Michael; daughters-in-law Katie and Julie; grandchildren Sydney, Zachary, Jacob, Samuel, and Nora; brother Brad; sister-in-law Michelle; and niece Jenna.

Overnight Delivery

Broodmares foal when they foal and no amount of wishing, hoping or scientific theory can change that ultimate fact of life. They foal attended, unattended, with monitors, or without and no one who has foaled a lot of mares can truthfully say that they haven't missed at least one foaling.

At Charlton, by my rough calculation, we foaled close to 1,000 mares in the 40 years we were in operation. Some years it was a dozen and some years, for instance immediately after the passage of slots legislation in Pennsylvania, we foaled as many as 60. Believe me when I tell you that we thought we had seen it all. There were maidens that rejected their foals; mares that died during, or shortly after, foaling; mares that consistently foaled in the paddock during the day; mares that always foaled standing up; and mares that never showed any signs of labor and lay down and popped a foal out before you could get into the stall. We even had a mare that was eating her breakfast when we noticed front legs and a nose sticking out from under her tail.

Our great client and dear friend Nina Gardner has always had an affinity for mares with jumping bloodlines. Over the years she has successfully raised sales yearlings, raced stakes-winning homebreds on the flat and over jumps, and been a staunch supporter of Olympic level three-day event riders. She even had a homebred, House Doctor, compete on the gold medal-winning team at the Sydney Olympics.

With all that in mind, in the winter 1995, Nina acquired a mare from Heather Hunter called Kutatanisha – 1984, *Mystic II—*Annalong, by Vulgan. A French import, *Mystic II was 29 when Kutatanisha was conceived and her mother *Annalong was 21 when she produced her. *Mystic II was a legendary sire of steeplechase horses, including champions Soothsayer (1972) and Life's Illusion (1975) plus major winner China Run, Maryland Hunt Cup winners Freeman's Hill and Bewley's Hill, as well as Springer, an outstanding show jumper of the 1970s for Barney Ward and Ian Millar, and top eventer/eventing sire Babamist.

*Annalong's family was also replete with European steeplechase stakes winners. Kutatanisha was pregnant, on a late June cover to the Raja Baba stallion Nepal, who stood at Heather's Upland Spring Farm in Unionville.

In 1995, although she and her husband Tim had relocated to Unionville, Nina's mares were still resident at their farm in Glyndon, Md., under the care of Debbie Moorefield. All of Nina's other mares foaled early that spring so it was decided that Kutatanisha would visit Charlton so that her foal could be Pennsylvania-sired and -bred. She arrived with a reputation, like most of the *Mystic II horses, of being extremely nervous and hating to be in a stall. We decided to buddy her up with another late-foaling mare and to let them live out in a small paddock until foaling was imminent.

On June 3 of that year, we were thrilled to be attending the wedding of our friend and former sale helper Paget Hirsch to Wes Bennett, the huntsman of the Pickering Hunt. The wedding was in Unionville with dinner and dancing in a tent adjacent to Allam House on the campus of the New Bolton Center. The two mares in the small paddock were 10 days from their due dates and showed no signs going early. The wedding was (and the marriage has proven to be) a smashing success. It had everything a wedding should have – beautiful weather, a beautiful bride and a happy groom. We arrived home about 11 p.m. and, as always, went to check the barn and the mares.

All was quiet in the barn, but when I shined my flashlight into the paddock, the fence was down and Kutatanisha was gone. Her friend was grazing happily inside the fence but there was no sign of Nina's mare. We quickly changed out of our wedding clothes and started the search. Usually, when a horse escapes its enclosure it is so surprised to find itself free that it seeks companionship with horses in an adjacent field and you will find it hanging over a nearby fence talking to its new best friend. Not this night. She was gone, gone, gone, nowhere on the farm.

Dixie and I started by driving in concentric circles around the farm, each circle a little farther from the farm than the last. After getting a few miles from home, we reversed the process. We had powerful flashlights and scanned the woods and fields like deer spotters – nothing. This continued until dawn with no better results. Kutatanisha had completely disappeared. We took a short break and, when we saw lights coming on in houses and barns, started calling our neighbors. We also called all of the veterinarians we could think of as they were beginning to make their rounds. For what seemed like forever we heard nothing.

At around 10 a.m. we got a call from local broodmare vet Roy Bergman. He was about six miles away at Derry Meeting Farm palpating mares. He had mentioned our dilemma while in the barn. One of the fellows said, "You know, when I was coming through Runnymede on my way to work, I saw a mare grazing in a field where I've never seen a horse before. Nah, it couldn't be the Abbotts' mare. This mare had a foal by her side." Of course, it was Kutatanisha. As the crow flies, she was five miles from the farm in a 300-acre pasture that she had to jump a coop to get into.

We drove the horse van over to the area where she had been spotted. She was about 100 yards from the road grazing happily by a stream as her filly slept beside her. Dr. Bergman met us there and pronounced mother and child perfectly fit. We had them home and in the foaling stall by 11 a.m., 12 hours after we had discovered the escape.

My next problem was how to tell Nina about our adventure. Obviously, I wanted to be truthful without sounding completely incompetent and losing a friend and client. I decided I could tell her the story only if she were standing in the stall looking at her perfectly safe mare and foal. I called and told her the mare had foaled and she needed to come right over as I had a "funny story" to tell her about the birth. After she had time to fuss over her new arrival, Nina listened as Dixie and I regaled her with the overnight episode. To our relief, she laughed and laughed. I told her that her attempt to have a Pennsylvania-sired, Pennsylvania-bred horse was almost foiled as the mare seemed to be headed for Maryland or, in a worst-case scenario Delaware.

Later that day, of course, I got a call from Marshall Jenney.

"Abbott," he said, "If you want me to foal your mares for you, at least you could bring them over during the day."

The filly, named Local Scandal, went on to be a successful intermediate level three-day event horse under the name Amazon. Kutatanisha had five more foals for Nina. None foaled at Charlton. Thank God. ✹

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MHBA announces new board members

Two incumbent members, a former presidential appointee and two new members were elected by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association membership to the 2021 Board of Directors. Dictated by MHBA bylaws, the annually held election fills five open seats on the board. Those elected will serve for the next three years.

Joining incumbents Michael J. Harrison DVM, a presidential appointee to the board in 2009 to 2010 who has since served from 2011 to 2016 and as the president of the board from 2018 to 2020, and Christy Holden, a board member for the past three years, are George Adams, Ann B. Jackson and Adair B. Stifel.

Harrison, a practicing equine veterinarian who has owned and operated his family's Willowdale Farm in Butler (Baltimore County) since 1983, has been elected to his fourth term on the board.

In addition to serving as president, he is also chairman of the MHBA Legislative committee and member of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, American Veterinary Medical Association and American Association of Equine Practitioners.

Harrison breeds, raises and races his own Thoroughbred stock, and believes "the Maryland Thoroughbred breeding industry is the critical foundation supporting Maryland racing, directly providing future racing prospects and validating the entire Thoroughbred industry for the positive impact it creates through job generation and the preservation of open spaces, while supporting agricultural related business, and by ultimately enhancing and improving the quality of life in Maryland."

Incumbents Michael J. Harrison (left) and Christy Holden were re-elected to the board along with (below clockwise from left) George Adams, Ann B. Jackson and Adair Bonsal Stifel.

Holden is general manager of Country Life and Maryland Farms, where she has worked since 2004. She will serve her second term on the board after first being elected in 2018.

With a bachelor's degree in business administration and previous experience in the insurance and fire protection industries, Holden's extensive skillset helps in her role of managing four stallions and overseeing nearly 125 broodmares, 100 young stock and 20 racehorses. A MHBA Annual Yearling Show veteran and 2020 finalist for the Thoroughbred Industry Employee Award for Leadership in Breeding, the Forest Hill (Harford County) resident hopes "to be a voice for farm managers and professionals in the industry who make a living on Maryland farms, and provide ideas for the long-term success and stability of breeding and racing in the state."

Adams, owner and manager of Housatonic Bloodstock, was a presidential appointee to the MHBA board in 2019. A resident of Baltimore City, Adams is an attorney who had been project manager for Country Life Farm and now serves as the director of stallions and breeding for Wasabi Ventures Stables.

A member of the MHBA Social Media and Marketing committee from 2017 to 2018, and MHBA Legislative committee in 2019, Adams is fully invested in the industry with a few of his own breeding and young stock, along with partnerships in nearly 60 horses and interests in a handful of Maryland and Kentucky stallions. He hopes to "continue to strengthen the Breeder and Owner Bonus programs for Maryland-breds [beyond the exciting new Developer category], to incentivize more breeders to foal in Maryland and invest in young Maryland-bred stock, and to support the young quality stallions standing in the state."

Jackson, owner of Foxharbor Farm in White Hall (Baltimore County) since 1998, has a background as a private investor. She is the breeder of 2015 Maryland Hunt Cup winner Raven's Choice, along with stakes winners such as Taco Supream and Artful Splatter.

A member of the National Steeplechase Association, a past board member of the Steeplechase Owners and Trainers Association, and a board member/officer for the Ladew Topiary Gardens, Jackson plans to "promote the breeding of Maryland horses that will race in Maryland and promote second careers of Thoroughbreds after flat racing, as steeplechasers, event horses, show horses, foxhunters, trail horses, etc."

Stifel is co-owner with her parents of Mantua Farm, which has been in the family since 1934. A land conservation consultant who owns a small herd of broodmares, horses of racing age and young stock, Stifel is involved with the Valleys Planning Council, Maryland Environmental Trust and Land Preservation Trust.

Highly dedicated to preserving Maryland's horse industry and green space around the state, Stifel strives to "honor, preserve and ensure the future of Maryland's horse industry by: 1) breeding and training Maryland-breds for first, second and third careers; 2) enhance the sport of steeplechase racing with Maryland-breds; 3) continuing to advocate for private land conservation as a means of supporting Maryland's horse farms."

Of the five directors whose terms expired this year, David Wade and Kent Murray were ineligible to stand for reelection because of having served six consecutive years as a member of the MHBA Board. Those whose terms have not expired are Richard F. Blue Jr., Ellen M. Charles, Michael D. Golden DVM, Michael Horning, Louis Merryman, Sabrina Moore, A. Leonard Pineau VMD, William Reightler, Thomas J. Rooney and James B. Steele. ❧

Holy Boss sees another six-figure sales juvenile

The only Maryland-bred offered at the second annual Fasig-Tipton Santa Anita Two-Year-Olds in Training sale, held June 23 in Arcadia, Calif., made her presence known as she went through the ring as the sixth highest priced of 53 sold.

Holy Berries (Hip 99), a bay filly by Anchor and Hope Farm's Holy Boss out of the stakes-winning Kipling mare Kip Berries, sold for $110,000 to West Point Thoroughbreds Inc. Consigned by Havens Bloodstock Agency Inc. Agent, she breezed an eighth in :10.4. Bred by Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC, the filly sold for $57,000 as a yearling at the 2020 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October sale. Earlier this year, she was a $75,000 RNA at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's March Two-Year-Olds in Training sale.

Freshman sire Holy Boss had two 2-year-olds sell for six-figures from three offered this year. A chestnut colt now named Brokester, out of the Malibu Moon mare Sunday in Malibu, sold for $100,000 to Down Neck Stable/Kelly Breen, agent, at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Two-Year-Olds in Training sale in May. Consigned by Todd Beattie Horse Training & Sales LLC Agent, he was bred in Maryland by Dr. Ronald Harris Parker.

Graded stakes-winning sprinter Holy Boss stood his first U.S. season in 2018 at Louis and Grace Merryman's Anchor and Hope Farm in Port Deposit after retiring from the track in late spring 2017 and covering his first mares in Argentina that fall. A dual-hemisphere stallion in each of his four breeding seasons, the son of Street Boss has 43 2-year-olds in his first U.S. crop.

Fasig-Tipton photo

Show'em Who's Boss, a 2-year-old filly out of the Tapit mare White Eye Julia I., became his first North American starter and winner when she broke her maiden by 5½ lengths at Delaware Park June 16. ❧

Maryland-bred Stakes Winners

Coady Photography

Knicks Go back on top with Cornhusker victory

Knicks Go returned to his winning ways with a standout performance in the $300,000 Prairie Meadows Cornhusker Handicap-G3, leading gate-to-wire to win by 10¼ lengths July 2 at Prairie Meadows.

Sent off as the 3-5 favorite, Knicks Go broke in sync with Last Judgment before kicking it up a notch to take the early lead, hitting the opening quarter-mile in :23.33. Last Judgment continued his efforts to bridge the gap as they flew through the opening half in :47.02 and three quarters in 1:10.77 before turning for home. Down the stretch, Knicks Go propelled ahead to finish the 1⅛ miles in 1:47.33, with Last Judgment second and Rated R Superstar a half-length back in third. His 113 Beyer was the best of any horse in the country this year.

The 5-year-old son of Paynter redeemed himself from his two previous starts, back-to-back fourth-place finishes in the $20 million Saudi Cup-G1 (Feb. 20) at King Abdulaziz Racecourse and the $1 million Metropolitan Handicap-G1 at Belmont Park (June 5). He had kicked off this season with an easy 2¾-length score in the $3 million Pegasus World Cup Invitational Stakes-G1 at Gulfstream Park in January, the third Grade 1 victory of his career. At 2 he won the Breeders' Futurity-G1, at 70-1 odds, at Keeneland before finishing second to Game Winner in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile-G1 at Churchill Downs. Last year he set two track records at Keeneland, the second when taking the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile-G1 in 1:33.85.

A two-time Maryland-Bred Horse of the Year (2018 and 2020) bred by Sabrina Moore and Angie Moore, Knicks Go has bankrolled $3,485,000 this year to boost his total earnings to $4,833,995 from 21 starts. He ranks behind only Cigar ($9,999,815) as the richest Maryland-bred runner of all time.

Out of stakes-winning Maryland-bred Kosmo's Buddy (by Outflanker), Knicks Go was sold by his breeders as a weanling for $40,000 to Northface Bloodstock at the 2016 Keeneland November sale, and returned to the sales ring as a yearling at Keeneland September, where he was purchased for $87,000 by his current owner, Korea Racing Authority. ❧

Career program hosts banner fourth year

By Sara Gordon

After the Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program was canceled last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Maryland Horse Foundation's unique week-long internship program exploring all aspects of career opportunities within Maryland's Thoroughbred industry returned to host five participants from around the country June 7-11.

The MTCP selected five participants who spent the week exploring Maryland as they learned about sales and consignment, breeding, training, racetrack operations, sales prep, aftercare, veterinary care and rehabilitation, steeplechase training and racing, foxchasing and the industry's ties to the state's agriculture industry.

Participants met and established connections with leaders within the industry, visiting the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Fasig-Tipton sales pavilion, breeding and training farms such as Dark Hollow and Safely Home, Chanceland, Shamrock, Merryland and Country Life, Northview Stallion Station and Sagamore Farm. Other highlights included visits to the Fair Hill Training Center, with stops at Equine Veterinary Care and the Fair Hill Equine Therapy Center, along with a day spent at Pimlico.

A new addition to this year's program was an emphasis on steeplechase racing and its deep history in Maryland. The participants enjoyed a morning with Hall of Fame trainer Jack Fisher at his Kingfisher Farm and later spent time with Charlie Fenwick at the Maryland Hunt Cup course.

Afterward, the group stopped at the Greenspring Valley Hounds kennels to learn about the sport of foxchasing, hosted by huntsman Ashley Hubbard.

The participants:

Charles Churchill

Louisville, Ky. A rising senior at the University of Kentucky, Churchill is studying equine science and management with an emphasis on management and industry, along with pursuing a minor in business. Relatively new to the Thoroughbred industry, he had his first hands-on experience at Hermitage Farm in Goshen, Ky., last spring and is working as an intern in the Track/Surface Maintenance

The 2021 Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program participants were Sophie O'Connor, Charles Churchill, Zaharia Selman, Ashlee Marcy and Cayla Reeder.

department at Keeneland in Lexington, Ky.

"I was inspired to apply for the program because I knew Maryland to be a powerhouse for great horsemanship with an incredible racing program," said Churchill. "I am incredibly new to the industry and needed guidance/exposure from a premier program equipped with the tools to teach me more about the Thoroughbred industry."

Churchill came away with more than he could have hoped for.

"The program was better than I could have imagined. This entire week was an incredible opportunity to meet some amazing people, who told stories and gave advice I'll think back on for years to come," he said. "For me, the highlight of the program was getting the opportunity to learn more about the steeplechase industry. Meeting a Hall of Fame trainer who has directly influenced the culture and methods of transitioning flat-racing horses to a career in steeplechase was the coolest experience I could have asked for, especially since I have an interest in any philanthropic efforts geared toward the preservation of Thoroughbred athletes."

Churchill's advice to any industry newcomers: "Always take advantage of every opportunity and do your best because you never know who could be the next to learn about your work ethic. A positive disposition and a good work ethic are huge assets in this industry."

Ashlee Marcy

Hanover, Md. Originally from Maumee, Ohio, Marcy has been married to Mikael, for 12 years as his career in the Marine Corps has sent their family, including four sons, all around the country and overseas. Since relocating to Maryland, Marcy invested more time in her passion for horses as she spent seven months working at a Thoroughbred breeding and rehabilitation facility and volunteering at a therapeutic riding center. She is studying equine business management at St. Andrews University.

"Everyone we met was so ready to share their expertise in such an inviting way that you already felt like part of the industry," said Marcy. "I think I am most attracted to the broodmare management career path. I really love the mommas and their babies. As a mom of four, I find myself relating so much to them and find the pregnancy and foaling process fascinating."

As she applies for fall internships in hopes of getting more hands-on experience, Marcy hopes to work the entirety of the breeding season next year. Though the breeding side of things has always piqued her interest, she recommends next year's participants, "come with an open mind about what your career goals are. There are so many career paths connected to this industry that I didn't consider."

But in terms of recruiting the next generation into the industry, Marcy thinks, "the key to planting the seed is the earlier the better, and to keep watering it. I admit that I don't know much about what is already out there, but I would love to see events that I could take my whole family to, on and off the track."

Sophie O'Connor

Shorewood, Wis. A rising sophomore at Goucher College studying political science and equine studies, O'Connor has loved racing since she was young. With a particular interest in pedigrees and breeding, she spent time with Sabrina Moore at GreenMount Farm this spring to increase her hands-on experience with Thoroughbreds.

"I grew up right outside of Milwaukee, the largest city in Wisconsin, so I did not have convenient access to horses, but I fell in love with horse racing when I was in fifth grade after watching Disney's Secretariat movie," said O'Connor. "Since then, I became interested in learning everything I could about the industry without actually being around the animals themselves. The MTCP has been extremely helpful as a gateway into the hands-on side of the industry, because that is the experience I was lacking."

As someone passionate about Thoroughbred history, a lot of the farm visits left an impact on O'Connor. "I enjoyed every part of the program, but as someone who has been studying the history and pedigrees of horse racing for years, visiting farms like Northview Stallion Station (formerly Windfields Farm, home of Northern Dancer), Sagamore Farm and Country Life Farm were powerful experiences for me," she said.

O'Connor added: "I had very few industry connections going into the MTCP. Coming out of it, my network has grown considerably and I feel much more confident as I move forward with trying to find my place in horse racing, knowing there are people all across Maryland who are there to support the next generation. My advice would be to feel confident in yourself, no matter your level of previous knowledge of horse racing or hands-on skills. The industry needs new people, and as long as you are willing to learn, you will find a place in it. Do not doubt yourself."

Cayla Reeder

Kearneysville, W.Va. A rising sophomore at Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, where she is majoring in paralegal studies, Reeder has been involved with horses and the Thoroughbred industry her entire life, as many of her family members work

within it. Her grandfathers and her father were jockeys, and her father works in the racing office at Laurel Park and Pimlico.

"I loved it. Hands down," said Reeder. "I still say it was the best week ever. I had so much fun getting to see all the different aspects of the industry and exploring everything more in-depth. One thing I really enjoyed was the lunch that we had with Katy Voss [at Chanceland Farm]. It meant a lot that she welcomed us into her home and was willing to talk about her career and how she got there.

"I came in with the knowledge of the racing side, but came out with knowledge in just about everything. As far as career goals, I would be happy with anything within the industry, though I thoroughly enjoy the racing side, so I think that's where I'm headed."

If getting involved with the Thoroughbred industry through the MTCP interests you, Reeder offered a recommendation: "Ask all the questions. Nothing is dumb. If you want to learn about something, ask. Wear comfy shoes. Take in every moment . . . embrace those 6 a.m. days. And, most importantly, be yourself."

Zaharia Selman

Conyers, Ga. A third-year student at the University of Georgia, Selman is working toward a degree in animal science with an equine emphasis, and a minor in computer science. Along with her devotion to leadership and volunteerism, Selman has a passion for working with large animals and hopes to expand her experience as she pursues a career focused on animal behavior. She applied for the 2019 program and wasn't accepted, missed the opportunity to apply in 2020 when the program was canceled, but returned for the chance to participate this year with a renewed enthusiasm.

"Prior to the MTCP, I had no experience with the Thoroughbred industry and little experience with horses, aside from my course classes (animal practicum) and volunteer opportunities at a horse farm," said Selman. "Since my acceptance this year, my initial goals had shifted to focus on learning about the different ways that equine behavior is incorporated into the different entities within horse racing (breeding, foaling, training, management, racing, etc.)."

Selman's MTCP experience not only enhanced her interest in a career focused on animal behavior, but also broadened her knowledge of the opportunities that lie within the industry and what other aspects may interest her.

"A highlight for me was our visit to Fair Hill toward the end of the week. Animal behavior, being my niche, piqued my interest in learning how they desensitize younger horses to the starting gate and how they emphasize wanting the horses to enjoy the experience, with no pressure. My MTCP experience also introduced me to careers that I did not know existed or had little information on, such as equine therapy and nature preservation (two areas that I now have an interest in since completing this program).

"The most important thing that I took away from my MTCP week was the importance of exploring the different and unique opportunities that are out there. I also enjoyed learning that finding this passion is going to be a journey of trying new things, disliking some things, loving some things and much more. Everyone that we met had their own journey and story, so it was encouraging to know that the journey will never stop and that I have opportunities to continue learning more." ❧

Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races at Maryland tracks
April 1 to April 30, 2021

Breeder bonuses

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—OLIVE'S BUMPA: April 8, 2nd race, $2,137.50. UNCOMMON VALOR: April 11, 4th race, $742.50. ($2,880)

AS Rennklub LLC—ALADDIN SANE: April 8, 4th race, $945.

Lorna L. Baker and Thomas H. Michaels Jr.—LAKI: April 24, 7th race, $8,250.

Barak Farm—NINE MARTINIS: April 23, 1st race, $1,102.50. STROLL SMOKIN: April 29, 6th race, $1,292.50. ($2,395)

David Baxter Sr.—HEMP: April 10, 7th race, $5,985.

William Bayne—BERNIE'S ON FIRE: April 11, 8th race, $1,575.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—PROPER ATTIRE: April 23, 7th race, $4,987.50. ZIP THE LIP: April 22, 4th race, $3,135. ($8,122.50).

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—CLAIRE'S DARLING: April 22, 6th race, $3,135.

Shellaine Brown and Susan Baldrige—GOING TO THE LEAD: April 23, 11th race, $3,990.

Sherman Chin—IMAGINE WINNING: April 10, 2nd race, $412.50; April 22, 1st race, $2,137.50. ($2,550)

Henry S. Clark III—GLENGAR: April 22, 10th race, $787.50; April 30, 2nd race, $945. ($1,732.50).

Classic Thoroughbred XXIX—JUROR NUMBER FOUR: April 23, 7th race, $1,837.50.

Clover Hill Racing LLC—LADNEEDSAHANDLER: April 9, 9th race, $907.50.

Cliff and Mary Cornwell and Country Life Farm—SUPER HOUDINI: April 25, 1st race, $1,417.50.

Country Life Farm—BILLINGSGATE: April 22, 8th race, $907.50. RESPONSE TIME: April 23, 8th race, $1,732.50. TAPPAHANNOCK: April 29, 5th race, $2,137.50. ($4,777.50)

Country Life Farm and Broken Trust Fund LLC—WICKED PRANKSTER: April 22, 3rd race, $1,470.

Country Life Farm and Curio Broodmare LLC—TARGE: April 24, 3rd race, $935.

Country Life Farm and Mrs. J.W.Y. Martin Jr.—EARNED IT: April 9, 6th race, $2,137.50.

CRK Stable LLC—EXCELLORATOR: April 24, 10th race, $2,750.

Dark Hollow Farm—EDIE MEENY MINY MO: April 23, 8th race, $4,702.50. SOUTHSIDE WARRIOR: April 22, 10th race, $412.50. TOY: April 9, 4th race, $962.50. ($6,077.50).

D. Hatman Thoroughbreds LLC—AUDACIOUS QUALITY: April 10, 9th race, $412.50; April 29, 5th race, $412.50. ($825)

Double NK Partnership and Dennis Jankiewicz—DISPUTED NOTION: April 10, 1st race, $467.50; April 30, 1st race, $605. ($1,072.50).

Dragon's Lair Farm LLC—BAPTIZE THE BOY: April 9, 4th race, $4,987.50; April 25, 6th race, $1,155. ($6,142.50).

Joan Parker Everett—GIFTED HEART: April 10, 5th race, $6,412.50.

Christopher J. Feifarek—OUR STAR: April 29, 3rd race, $412.50.

Finn's Nickel LLC and Anchor and Hope Farm, Inc—EGG NOG: April 24, 1st race, $495.

Fitzhugh LLC—MARDEN: April 8, 5th race, $2,137.50. ROYAL NUMBER: April 24, 10th race, $1,375. WELLING: April 25, 2nd race, $3,135. ($6,647.50).

Robert J. Gerczak—LITTLE BAY: April 23, 5th race, $412.50.

Glenangus Farm LLC—PROPER STORM: April 8, 7th race, $907.50.

Michael J. Harrison DVM—JUDI BLUE EYES: April 23, 10th race, $1,155.

Hearts Desire Farm LLC and Winding Creek Farm—LOOKS DON'T LIE: April 25, 3rd race, $945.

Hickory Ridge Farm—CAREY TIMES: April 10, 8th race, $1,237.50.

Hillwood Stable LLC—BE GOOD: April 23, 7th race, $962.50. HELLO AMIGO: April 23, 3rd race, $907.50. ($1,870)

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Holt—QUEEN OF TOMORROW: April 8, 8th race, $5,985.

Jagger Inc.—APRILNESS: April 29, 1st race, $632.50.

R. Larry Johnson—DAY THE MUSIC DIED: April 29, 2nd race, $825.KEEPER IN SPITE: April 22, 7th race, $787.50. WHO KNOWS WHAT: April 11, 6th race, $1,417.50. ($3,030)

Timothy L. Keefe—TRICKY SPIRITS: April 8, 7th race, $1,732.50.

Joanne P. Krishack—COMMANDING GENERAL: April 9, 1st race, $632.50.

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—DARE TO PROMISE: April 23, 8th race, $907.50.

Carl Lanier—HE'S NOT CURLY: April 9, 6th race, $412.50. HE'S ORIENTATE: April 11, 4th race, $3,847.50. ($4,260)

Little Man Farm—INSIGHTFUL: April 8, 9th race, $4,275.

Robert T. Manfuso and Katharine M. Voss—BUZZHOUND: April 25, 1st race, $742.50.

Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—CAMPARI: April 29, 9th race, $787.50. FEATURE ACT: April 29, 9th race, $412.50. ($1,200)

Robert T. Manfuso and Katharine M. Voss—NO MORE TALK: April 23, 2nd race, $945.

Marathon Farm Inc.—ABUELO PAPS: April 22, 9th race, $2,205. DASHING LOU: April 8, 3rd race, $495. ROCKIN RON: April 22, 1st race, $412.50. ($3,112.50).

Mrs. J.W.Y. Martin Jr.—TRIP TO FREEDOM: April 23, 6th race, $3,990.

Charles C.D. McGill—CRY NO MORE: April 25, 6th race, $2,205.

William Meister and Julie Arbogast—ZEN PI: April 23, 11th race, $770.

Mill Hill Stable LLC—MILLIE CHILD: April 10, 4th race, $632.50. SEBASTIAN: April 29, 4th race, $907.50. ($1,540)

Nancy Lee Farms—BANDOLINI: April 10, 9th race, $2,137.50. EASTERN BAY: April 24, 7th race, $1,375. POLISH COOKIE: April 9, 3rd race, $1,100. SING A VERSE: April 10, 9th race, $787.50. ($5,400)

Charles V Parker—FORTH: April 9, 5th race, $1,100.

Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau—HANALEI'S HOUDINI: April 24, 4th race, $2,362.50.

Darci Rice—HAD THE NOTION: April 10, 4th race, $3,277.50; April 23, 1st race, $577.50. ($3,855)

Maryland Horse
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Cynthia K. Rickman—CROWNEDCOUNTCRISTO: April 22, 8th race, $1,732.50.

Roland Farm—SEVILLA SANGRIA: April 8, 2nd race, $787.50; April 22, 5th race, $495. ($1,282.50).

Timothy J. Rooney—PROMENADE PRINCESS: April 10, 4th race, $1,207.50; April 29, 7th race, $1,155. ($2,362.50).

Alexandro Rubim-Dias—AWARD WANTED: April 11, 3rd race, $1,575. V. I. P. TICKET: April 8, 6th race, $1,237.50. ($2,812.50)

Sagamore Farm LLC—BRING ME ANSWERS: April 29, 3rd race, $2,137.50. START WITH YES: April 8, 5th race, $412.50. ($2,550)

Shamrock Farm—SUE LOVES BARBADOS: April 10, 7th race, $2,205.

M. Terry Shane—MARGIE'S HEAVEN: April 25, 4th race, $4,132.50.

Stephen T. Sinatra—JACKIE A: April 22, 4th race, $1,155.

Mary Slade—GRAND SKYLARK: April 29, 7th race, $605.

Smith Farm and Stable—RAVEN RAHY: April 25, 7th race, $495.

John D. Stuart—BELFOUR: April 11, 5th race, $2,565.

Sweet Spirits Stables LLC—SWEET ASTA: April 8, 1st race, $945; April 25, 7th race, $945. ($1,890)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—JEEZUM JIM: April 8, 5th race, $787.50.

The Elkstone Group LLC—BUST OUT LADY: April 22, 5th race, $945. TORCH OF TRUTH: April 10, 8th race, $2,362.50. ($3,307.50)

Two Legends Farm—BENANDJOE: April 9, 4th race, $1,837.50.

University of Maryland—FEARLESS LASSIE: April 11, 6th race, $3,847.50.

Susan Wantz—MOSLER SAFE: April 9, 9th race, $1,732.50.

Konrad M. Wayson—BEAR FORCE WON: April 9, 1st race, $3,277.50.

Mr. and Mrs. Bayne Welker Jr.—DESHACKLED: April 23, 3rd race, $1,732.50.

Winding Creek Farm—WHISKEY AND YOU: April 10, 8th race, $6,412.50.

Lana Wright—SICK PACK SARA: April 24, 3rd race, $4,845.

ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable—MALIBU BEAUTY: April 10, 6th race, $5,985.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2021

(through July 1)

1.	Knicks Go	$3,305,000	
2.	Jaxon Traveler	210,048	
3.	Street Lute	191,500	
4.	Pete's Play Call	113,564	
5.	Galerio	104,827	
6.	Aloha West	102,818	
7.	Judi Blue Eyes	101,856	
8.	Paisley Singing	100,555	
9.	Tattooed	96,800	
10.	Cry No More	96,573	
11.	Excellorator	$96,372	
12.	Laki	95,500	
13.	I Get It	94,178	
14.	Cordmaker	92,500	
15.	Hemp	91,268	
16.	Proper Attire	88,194	
17.	Chasin Munny	87,872	
18.	Hello Beautiful	87,500	
19.	Lookin Dynamic	86,820	
20.	Shackled Love	86,182	

Stallion bonuses

ADMIRAL ALEX (Grand Skylark: April 29, 7th race, $201.59): Leon Blusiewicz.

BALTIMORE BOB (Little Bay: April 23, 5th race, $137.45): Robert Gerczak.

BANDBOX (Bandolini: April 10, 9th race, $712.22. Baptize the Boy: April 9, 4th race, $1,661.84; April 25, 6th race, $384.85. Bear Force Won: April 9, 1st race, $1,092.06. Be Good: April 23, 7th race, $320.71. He's Not Curly: April 9, 6th race, $137.45. Hello Amigo: April 23, 3rd race, $302.38. Queen of Tomorrow: April 8, 8th race, $1,994.20): Bandbox Syndicate—$6,605.71.

BARBADOS (Insightful: April 8, 9th race, $1,424.43. Sue Loves Barbados: April 10, 7th race, $734.71): Shamrock Farm—$2,159.14.

BOURBON COURAGE (Egg Nog: April 24, 1st race, $164.93. Olive's Bumpa: April 8, 2nd race, $712.22. Proper Storm: April 8, 7th race, $302.38. Tricky Spirits: April 8, 7th race, $577.27. Uncommon Valor: April 11, 4th race, $247.40): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$2,004.20.

BUFFUM (Commanding General: April 9, 1st race, $210.75. Malibu Beauty: April 10, 6th race, $1,994.20): Buffum Syndicate—$2,204.95.

CAL NATION (Earned It: April 9, 6th race, $712.22. Judi Blue Eyes: April 23, 10th race, $384.85): Cal Nation Syndicate—$1,097.07.

CUBA (Laki: April 24, 7th race, $2,748): J&S Stables LLC.

DESPITE THE ODDS (Keeper in Spite: April 22, 7th race, $262.40): R. Larry Johnson.

FREEDOM CHILD (Glengar: April 22, 10th race, $262.40; April 30, 2nd race, $314.87. Millie Child: April 10, 4th race, $210.75. Trip to Freedom: April 23, 6th race, $1,329.47): Freedom Child Syndicate—$2,117.49.

FRIESAN FIRE (Bernie's On Fire: April 11, 8th race, $524.79. Tappahannock: April 29, 5th race, $712.22. Whiskey and You: April 10, 8th race, $2,136.65): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$3,373.66.

GOLDEN LAD (Crownedcountcristo: April 22, 8th race, $577.27. Ladneedsahandler: April 9, 9th race, $302.38. Margie's Heaven: April 25, 4th race, $1,376.95. Sick Pack Sara: April 24, 3rd race, $1,614.35): Golden Lad Syndicate—$3,870.95.

GREAT NOTION (Cry No More: April 25, 6th race, $734.71. Disputed Notion: April 10, 1st race, $155.77; April 30, 1st race, $201.59. Had the Notion: April 10, 4th race, $1,092.06; April 23, 1st race, $192.42. Sing a Verse: April 10, 9th race, $262.40. Zen Pi: April 23, 11th race, $256.56): Great Notion Syndicate—$2,895.51.

IMAGINING (Buzzhound: April 25, 1st race, $247.40. Claire's Darling: April 22, 6th race, $1,044.58. Imagine Winning: April 10, 2nd race, $137.45; April 22, 1st race, $712.22. Proper Attire: April 23, 7th race, $1,661.84. Zip the Lip: April 22, 4th race, $1,044.58): Imagining Syndicate—$4,848.07.

MOSLER (Mosler Safe: April 9, 9th race, $577.27. Raven Rahy: April 25, 7th race, $164.93. Response Time: April 23, 8th race, $577.27. Wicked Prankster: April 22, 3rd race, $489.80): Country Life Farm, Adele Dilschneider and Seth Hancock—$1,809.27.

NICANOR (Sweet Asta: April 8, 1st race, $314.87; April 25, 7th race, $314.87): Nicanor Syndicate—$629.74.

NOT FOR LOVE (No More Talk: April 23, 2nd race, $314.87. Torch of Truth: April 10, 8th race, $787.19): Not For Love Syndicate—$1,102.06.

ORIENTATE (Dashing Lou: April 8, 3rd race, $164.93. He's Orientate: April 11, 4th race, $1,281.99): Orientate Syndicate—$1,446.92.

REDEEMED (Going to the Lead: April 23, 11th race, $1,329.47): Redeemed Syndicate.

SEVILLE (GER) (Polish Cookie: April 9, 3rd race, $366.52. Sevilla Sangria: April 8, 2nd race, $262.40; April 22, 5th race, $164.93): Seville Syndicate—$793.85.

SUPER NINETY NINE (Billingsgate: April 22, 8th race, $302.38. Gifted Heart: April 10, 5th race, $2,136.65. Hemp: April 10, 7th race, $1,994.20. Nine Martinis: April 23, 1st race, $367.35. Sebastian: April 29, 4th race, $302.38. Super Houdini: April 25, 1st race, $472.31): Country Life Farm—$5,575.27.

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **August 2021** -

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Jack of all trades, Rory Huston picks up first stakes win

By Bill Finley

He trains a string of 34 horses at Monmouth Park and manages Overbrook Farm in Colts Neck, where he does a little bit of everything. That means every day is a busy day, complete with long hours and trips back and forth from the farm to the track. But for Rory Huston, it's starting to pay off. In 2020, the 63-year-old horseman enjoyed his best year ever, winning 17 races with stable earnings of $808,053. That may be hard to top this year, but not if the filly Groovy Surprise keeps on winning.

Bred and owned by Hope Haskell Jones, the Jersey-bred daughter of Giant Surprise scored a mild upset in the June 27 Smart N Classy Handicap at Monmouth. Aggressively ridden by Mychel Sanchez, she went to the front, briefly lost the lead, but battled back to win by

Groovy Surprise wins the $75,000 Smart N Classy Handicap at Monmouth Park in June.

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The connections of Groovy Surprise, including breeder/owner Hope Haskell Jones and trainer Rory Huston, celebrate her win in the Smart N Classy Handicap.

three-quarters of a length. The runner-up was Stay Smart, the 2020 Smart N Classy winner who is out of none other than Smart N Classy. It was the first stakes win for Groovy Surprise and the first for Huston as a trainer.

This is a racing story that begins way back in 1976 when Huston walked over to the Colts Neck farm and asked owner Richard Bailey for a job. He was ready to work hard and was eager to learn. He started out as Bailey's assistant. Over time, his duties increased as he and his wife Sharon became the face of Overbrook. They have done just about everything there is to do on a horse farm, from breaking yearlings to working with the breeding stock and layup horses to cutting the grass.

In the early 1990s the Hustons took on the added role of training. At the onset, the horses raced under Sharon's name. Since 2010, they have run under Rory's name and husband and wife share the duties. Since Rory officially took over the training duties, it has been a steady progression. As recently as 2012, he had only 49 starts. In 2020, he had 122.

"We work together," Rory Huston said. "My day usually ends around 5. I work all day long and when I get done at the track I come home to Overbrook and work all afternoon. Sharon is the same way."

At Overbrook, they met Jones and her sister, Isabelle de Tomaso, the daughters of Amory Haskell, the first president of the modern-day Monmouth Park. The Haskell sisters are very devoted to the New Jersey-bred program and have sent many a mare to Overbrook over the years to foal. That led them to give the Hustons a chance when their trainer, Audrey Riker, retired.

"Rory does a very good job and I am pleased with the success he has had with my horses," Jones said. "When we went looking for a trainer, we wanted someone who raced at Monmouth Park and we knew what Sharon and Rory could do from their work for us at Overbrook."

The Haskell sisters use a few different trainers, including Cal Lynch and Graham Motion. But every year Jones makes sure that Huston gets at least a handful to work with. She likes to keep particular pedigrees with particular trainers and Huston has trained all the horses out of the dam Good and Groovy, including Groovy Surprise. The best may have been stakes-placed Mello Groove, who earned $253,442, but Groovy Surprise is catching up fast. Huston currently has four horses for Jones.

"They stay busy and are great owners," Huston said of the Haskell sisters. "They understand the game and the ups and downs. If their horses need some time, they get the time. Working for them is not a stressful situation at all."

Groovy Surprise showed promise as a 2-year-old, winning her career debut before finishing third against open company in the Hollywood Wildcat Stakes. She won her third start in 2020, winning a state-bred optional claimer, but she fizzled out at the end of the year. She finished sixth in the 2020 Smart N Classy before running eighth in an allowance race at Parx in December.

As he does with all of his horses, Huston gave Groovy Surprise the winter off and brought her back in the May 31 Spruce Fir Handicap at 6 furlongs, where she finished third as the favorite. It wasn't her best effort, but it appeared to sharpen her up for the 1-mile Smart N Classy.

"We tried to stretch her out a few times and weren't very successful," Huston said. "She's a big filly, which is why we always thought she would do well going long. Her first race back was at 6 furlongs and she needed that race. It set us up good for this race."

It was fitting that Huston's first stakes win came with a Jersey-bred. He said that 25 of his 34 horses are Jersey breds and Overbrook has no equal when it comes to being the birthplace of Jersey breds.

He will continue to send out runners through the Monmouth meet and will make a few more starts at the Mid-Atlantic tracks after the meet is over. Around December 1, he will turn his full attention to his duties at Overbrook,

which will include overseeing the next generation of Jones' Jersey breds.

"When it comes to Jersey breds, I think we all wish the meet was a little longer, but the pots are good," Huston said. "With a lot of them, I've been around them since they were foals. I get to know my horses that way. I really enjoy developing the horses."

He's gotten off to a good start at the meet. On the same day that Groovy Surprise won, the Huston-trained Powerfully Built, a Florida-bred, ran second in an allowance race. He also has Hit Me I'm Lucky, a 3-year-old gelding bred in New Jersey who won a June 25 maiden special weight. And there's Jersey-bred Wallercito, who was second in an allowance in his first start of the year.

As for Groovy Surprise, there are stakes on the horizon, including the Eleven North Handicap on the New Jersey Thoroughbred Festival card Aug. 29. Another stakes win is not out of the question, and neither is another banner year from the Huston barn.

Fixed-odds wagering bill passes in New Jersey

By Bill Finley

A bill legalizing fixed-odds wagering on horse races was passed unanimously by both houses in New Jersey and will now go to Governor Phil Murphy, who is expected to sign it.

"We've been pushing hard to get it up and running by the Haskell," said Dallas Baker, the head of international operations for the Australian firm BetMakers, which will operate the fixed-odds betting.

"That's always been our goal. We've got a lot of work to do, which is great. We've always been aiming for the Haskell and we're all confident that's when we can begin. It's go time."

Monmouth Park has been a longtime advocate of fixed-odds wagering, hoping that it can do for U.S. racing what it did in Australia. Once legalized, fixed-odds betting exploded in Australia, leading to a sharp increase in total handle on racing and healthy purse increases.

"Our ultimate goal is to have what happened in Australia over the last 10 years or so and after online betting was deregulated happen here," Baker said. "In that time, the handle has doubled and purse money doubled as well. That's what we want to see here, too. The opportunity exists in the U.S. to have that happen here and on a quicker time line than 10 years."

With just 24.6 million residents, $25 billion is wagered annually on racing in Australia, or about $15 billion more than what is bet each year in the U.S. Fixed-odds betting could also go a long way towards fixing what has become a serious problem for U.S. racing. Because large gamblers using computer programs to make their bets are allowed to bet at the very last second, it is common for odds to plunge on a horse during the running of the race. That, for obvious reasons, leaves a bad taste in the bettors' mouths.

With Monmouth long ago committed to the fixed-odds wagering, BetMakers has been looking to sign up other tracks to add to its betting menu. Baker would not say exactly how many have come on, but said he was pleased by the response.

"We've got quite a few tracks signed up and ready to go. Maybe a dozen," Baker said. "What the bill allows is it provides the legalities to take fixed-odds bets as long as there are commercial terms in place with the other tracks. Quite a few signed up now and, hopefully, in next few weeks, we will get some more. We will also have a full menu of international racing."

As of now, only New Jersey residents will be allowed to have fixed-odds accounts, but Baker said it should not take long for other states to come on board.

"We have spoken to a lot of other states and they have shown good interest in it," he said. "But they were waiting to see the bill passed in New Jersey first. We see the roll out going very similar to what happened with PASPA [the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act]. The obvious ones to take fixed-odds wagering on horses are the ones that already have sports betting."

Once fixed-odds betting is widely available, the hope, Baker said, is that sports bettors who are now ignoring horse racing will be enticed to give the horses a try. That a fixed-odds wager closely resembles a typical sports bet is seen as a major selling point.

"The important thing is to zone in on the phenomenon that is sports betting in the U.S.," he said. "We want to get those punters betting on racing and right now they don't have an easy in when it comes to racing."

According to playnj.com, the takeout on the fixed-odds betting will be 12.5%, which is considerably lower than the typical takeout on pari-mutuel win wagers.

New Jersey Department of Agriculture honors Ed Wengryn as Horseperson of the Year

The 2020 Governor's Award for Horseperson of the Year was awarded to Ed Wengryn, who has served the industry primarily with the New Jersey Farm Bureau since 1988. Wengryn accepted the award at the 64th annual New Jersey Breeders Awards Celebration at the Horse Park of New Jersey in June.

"Ed Wengryn's dedication to agriculture and the equine community has benefited New Jersey in numerous ways during his many of years of service," NJDA Secretary Douglas H. Fisher said. "He has been a steadfast proponent for all of the many facets of the horse industry."

Wengryn is the Farm Bureau's representative for right to farm, equine agricultural management practices development, farmland assessment, and humane standards for the care and keeping of livestock including equine animals.

More recently Wengryn has lobbied for initiatives such as recognizing the importance of housing equine employees on farms and correcting sales tax issues for equine operators.

A 1986 graduate of Delaware Valley University, Wengryn has used horses as an opportunity to introduce more people to agriculture through equine activities such as riding and equestrian sport.

Equine Science Center honored at New Jersey Equine Advisory Board awards presentation

The Equine Science Center received a proclamation from both the New Jersey Legislature as well as the New Jersey Governor's Office on Wednesday, June 16 during the 2020 New Jersey Equine Advisory Board's Award Ceremony. The proclamations recognized the Equine Science Center's dedication to "Better Horse Care through Research & Education" and celebrated the Center's 20th anniversary.

Over the last 20 years, the Equine Science Center, under the direction of its Founding Director Dr. Karyn Malinowski, has become an internationally recognized stalwart of the equine community. From research into the betterment of horses, humans, and the environment, to research quantifying the economic impact of the equine industry, the Equine Science Center has worked to position itself as a first-call resource for all things equine.

During the awards ceremony, New Jersey Senator Samuel Thompson presented the Center with a joint resolution sponsored by Assemblyman Ronald Dancer, on behalf of the New Jersey Legislature.

Senator Thompson stated that "The RU Equine Science Center is a pioneer in research for the equine industry and I am proud to formally recognize RUESC for its work."

The Equine Science Center delegation to receive the award included: the Founding Director, Dr. Karyn Malinowki; Associate Director of Research, Dr. Kenneth McKeever; Associate Director of Outreach, Dr. Carey Williams; Public Relations Specialist, Kyle Hartmann; Rutgers University Board for Equine Advancement (RUBEA) Co-Chair, Dr. Amy Butewicz; RUBEA Member, Randy Burrows; and undergraduate students Francesca Buchalski and Sarah Paladino.

Senator Thompson also presented the Center with a Proclamation from the Governor's Office highlighting the work that the Center has done for the State of New Jersey, and the equine community. While the governor was unable to attend, he sent his well-wishes and congratulations for over 20 years of service.

The Equine Science Center was also proud to have Rutgers undergraduate student Ms. Gemma Parente receive the Ernest C. Bell Memorial Scholarship. The Ernest C. Bell Memorial Scholarship Fund was established to perpetuate Mr. Bell's memory and legacy in the New Jersey Horse industry. Mr. Bell was also a founding member of the Equine Advisory Board. The scholarship is awarded to a senior at SEBS who is majoring in Animal Science with an emphasis in Equine Science.

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

August 2021

President's message

I am happy to report that the NCTA website in now up to date. After almost two years on my to-do list, it's finally been scratched off. Now that I know how, the site should stay current. I was afraid to tinker with it fearing the possibility of its destruction.

Finally getting back to a live horse race and NYC in June filled my heart with happiness and vigor. Getting to see Dan Shea's horse, Shea On a Mission, run was an added bonus. Belmont Stakes Day is my favorite day of racing in the year. With the undercard filled with Grade 1 and graded races, it's like attending a mini–Breeders' Cup.

Congratulations to Nancy, Beth, Dan, James and Clint for their horses' wins this reporting period. In addition, we welcomed Step Up Thoroughbreds, located in the Coastal Plains, as a new member in June. As always, thank you for your support.

/Rebecca Montaldo

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Thoroughbred Association

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Racing Recaps

Flat Out Flying (Flat Out out of She'sa Tough Tiger, by Tiger Ridge) won at Delaware Park May 31 for breeders Elizabeth Muirhead and Frank Coniglio. The 5-year-old gelding ran a mile and 70 yards in 1:43.80. Breaking from post seven, he stalked the pace early, running in the four-lane around the first turn. Gaining on his foes down the stretch from the outside, he took the lead at the sixteenth pole and won by 1¼ lengths.

Double Tough Tiger (Tourist out of She'sa Tough Tiger, by Tiger Ridge) won at Churchill Downs June 5 giving her breeder, Beth Muirhead, her second win in a week. The 3-year-old colt ran 1 mile in 1:35.44. Breaking from the five post, the colt stalked the pace early, running in lane four around the turn, moved into the three-path down the stretch, came under a drive at the top of the stretch and won by a head.

Shea D Summer wins for owner Dan Shea in the Game Face Stakes.
Lauren King /Coglianese Photo

Shea D Summer (Summer Front out of Empress of Gold, by Empire Maker) won the Game Face Stakes at Gulfstream Park for 3-year-old fillies for her owner Dan Shea – Shea D Boy's Stables. This is her second stakes win. Breaking from the three-hole, she set the pace from the start and crossed the wire a 2½-length winner after running 6½ furlongs in 1:17.17.

Virginia Beach wins for owner James Jones/Country Life Farm.
Mary Lyons/Hoofprints Photo

Virginia Beach (Twirling Candy out of Enterprise Beach, by El Prado-Ire) won at Delaware Park June 9 for owner James Jones in partnership with Country Life Farm. The 4-year-old filly stalked the pace early, widened to the five-path turning for home, kicked clear in the final furlong and won by 2¼ lengths.

Fifty Sheas Ofgrey (Tiznow out of Coppermine, by Unbridled's Song) won at Monmouth Park June 12 for owner Dan Shea – Shea D Boy's Stable. Breaking his maiden in just his second start, the 3-year-old colt ran 1$\frac{1}{16}$ miles on the turf in 1:43.03. After breaking from the two post and setting the pace, he led the way, cleared

Fifty Sheas Ofgrey wins at Monmouth Park for owner Dan Shea . *Bill Denver/Equiphoto*

free from his foes in the upper stretch and dug in to win by a head.

Dionysus' Chalice (Fiber Sonde out of Athena Grand, by Civilisation) won at Mountaineer June 22 for breeders Dr. and Mrs. Clint Lowry. The 6-year-old broke from post seven, went wide in the eighth path and rallied clear to win by 2 lengths in the 2-furlong race run in :21.96.

Firing Carol (Firing Line out of Dynamite Dame, by El Prado-Ire) won at Belmont Park June 24 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 3-year-old filly ran 6 furlongs in 1:11.34. She broke slow from the gate, trailed the pack, chased three wide under encouragement, went five wide at the top of the stretch and kicked in to take the lead in the final furlong to win by a half-length.

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

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Thank you for your support.

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	Result
29-May	Shooters Shoot	Santa Anita $200K G2 Thriple Bend S	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
30-May	Firing Carol	Belmont Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
31-May	Texas Wedge	Lone Star Park $100K Chamberlain Bridge S	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
31-May	Flat Out Flying	Delaware Park	Bred by Beth Muirhead & Frank Coniglio	**WINNER!**
2-Jun	Saints Marching In	Belterra Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
3-Jun	Rockin Anna Rollin	Charles Town	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
4-Jun	Dannyhill	Gulfstream Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
5-Jun	Double Tough Tiger	Churchill Downs	Bred by Beth Muirhead	**WINNER!**
5-Jun	Shea D Summer	Gulfstream Park - $75K Game Face S	Owned by Dan Shea - Shea D Boys Stables	**WINNER!**
5-Jun	Cainudothetwist	Tyron - Hurtle	Bred & owned by Bill & Carrington Price	3rd
5-Jun	Hurtgen Forest	Tryon - Hurtle	Bred & owned by Bill & Carrington Price	3rd
5-Jun	Miss Grandstander	Charles Town	Bred by Clint Lowry	2nd
7-Jun	Always Special	Thistledown	Bred & owned by Beth Muirhead	2nd
7-Jun	Dionysus' Chalice	Mountaineer Park	Bred by Clint Lowry	3rd
9-Jun	Virginia Beach	Delaware Park	Owned by James Jones in partnership	**WINNER!**
12-Jun	Fifty Sheas Ofgrey	Monmouth Park	Owned by Dan Shea - Shea D Boys Stables	**WINNER!**
17-Jun	Condemnation	Thistledown	Owned by Caroline Cooper - Check Racing	2nd
19-Jun	Dirty Dangle	Woodbine 125K Star Shoot S	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
22-Jun	Royalbonnielegacy	Finger Lakes	Owned by Brad Graham in a partnership	3rd
22-Jun	Dionysus' Chalice	Mountaineer Park	Bred by Clint Lowry	**WINNER!**
24-Jun	Admonish	Woodbine	Bred & owned by Bill Thompson - Maple Lane Farm	3rd
24-Jun	Firing Carol	Belmont Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	**WINNER!**

PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

August 2021
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

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The humble life of breeder Kate Goldenberg

by Emily Shields

For nearly five decades, Kate Goldenberg has quietly set to work not only breeding and training her own horses, but rescuing and rehabilitating former racehorses as well. She does so without fanfare and without expecting anything in return, save for the sheer enjoyment of being around equine athletes most moments of every day. But this year, Goldenberg decided to take her special venture one step further.

Goldenberg, now 67, grew weary of doing virtually every chore without ever paying herself. "I'm not able to do as much anymore," she admitted. "I thought pursuing a 501(c)(3) would make it more attractive for people to make donations and help out."

Obtaining a 501(c)(3) status for a nonprofit organization takes time, money, and patience. "How many ways can you describe an apple?" Goldenberg lamented of the lengthy paperwork involved. "We were approved in September but didn't get the total paperwork until January 20."

As a 501(c)(3), donations to Safe Haven Equine's Thoroughbred Rescue component are tax deductible. Fundraising has always been an issue—as it is for most animal rehabilitation organizations—but lately, Goldenberg struggled. "I dislocated my shoulder on January 1," she said. "I've been in a lot of pain and I'm having surgery in June. I severed tendons in my shoulder, but I've been delivering babies, breeding mares, and I've been tired."

And there aren't just horses on the property. "We have baby squirrels, we have old dogs," Goldenberg laughed. "We were getting donations as a regular farm, but now I'm hoping more people will feel like donating to us."

But even without the 501(c)(3) status, the farm has always been a hotbed of both special horses and wonderful volunteers.

"The volunteers we have are tremendous," Goldenberg said. "I have a rider that Danielle [Montgomery] from Turning For Home sent me, who is a Godsend for me, because I'm not the one climbing on these horses for the first time now!"

Whether Goldenberg or one of her riders is rehabilitating the horses makes little difference, as the quality of the training program has produced some true standouts in their second careers. Goldenberg pointed to Star of Midnight, a mare who ran 33 times—23 of those in Pennsylvania—who is now a remarkable jumping prospect. "She goes right up to every jump and tucks every piece of herself. You wouldn't be afraid of riding her into anything."

Goldenberg continued from page 1

Many of Goldenberg's rescue horses end up at Work to Ride, another 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that aids "disadvantaged urban youth through constructive activities centered on horsemanship." The program takes place at Chamounix Stables near Philadelphia. Participants, who must commit to at least a year in the program, learn various equine sports, but polo is the most popular.

One graduate of the program, Kareem Rosser, was part of the first all African-American team to win a National Interscholastic Polo championship, and has since published a moving memoir called "Crossing the Line."

"I've known those kids forever," Goldenberg said of Rosser and his siblings. "I don't know if it's just because I know them, but the way he wrote that book, I could feel tears coming down my face at times."

One of the horses Rosser bonded with was named Cholo, originally High Spirited. Bred by Goldenberg, the son of Judge T C went winless in 15 starts on the track. The Pennsylvania-bred flourished in his new career, and was a source of great inspiration for Rosser. "Cholo was quite a bit of the glue that kept Kareem focused; they were instantly bonded." Rosser ultimately went to college on a full scholarship, and Cholo remains an integral part of the Work to Ride program.

Another Pennsylvania-bred, Runninginflipflops, won four of 53 starts with nine second-place efforts. "I delivered that horse years ago," Goldenberg said. "His owner in New York called me and said he bucked her off; I said I would take him, no questions. I did not feel he was a bad horse, I felt he was a great horse. These kids at Work to Ride are tough; they get thrown, they get back up again."

Goldenberg has always been a champion for second careers for horses, as there are options even beyond what typical racing supporters know. "There's a desperate need for embryo transfer mares," she said. "There's a need for head to tail trail horses. I have people waiting in line for old pony horses from the track."

She nodded to the PHBA's "code of ethics" as a major plus for the sport. "There are huge penalties if your horse ends up in a kill pen," she explained. "This is huge, as these horses that might have gotten dumped are hopefully going to end up with people like me or Danielle. I've got a 14-year-old broodmare coming who probably has the patience of a saint. People need horses like that."

Despite its name, Safe Haven Equine is not only a safe place for animals. "This farm has healed so many," Goldenberg said. "Historically, it is the 'lost soul' that ends up here." In addition to Work to Ride, Goldenberg has been working with Truth for Women, an emergency shelter for survivors of sex trafficking in Bethlehem, Pa. Horses tend to be universally healing to those in need.

"There's just a neat thing about being on a farm, alongside the honesty of a horse. We've had soldiers and we've had people angry at how the world is, but when you're on a farm you realize that we are no different than the animals. Being here changes your attitude, so you don't get angry about things."

With all the work being done to rescue horses—and people—at Safe Haven Equine, Goldenberg, and her farm, exemplify all that is good in the world.

A few words from the Executive Secretary

The state budget is complete, and we're happy to say that no money was taken from the Race Horse Development Trust Fund or the Breeding Fund. Our Trust has again stood up to pressure from the Governor! Thanks to everyone who contacted their legislators and worked toward this outcome.

I'd like to welcome back our friends at Presque Isle Downs for another exciting season. Special thanks to Matt Ennis, Director of Racing and Allan Plever, Racing Secretary, for all they do to help our program succeed. Have a fantastic season!

Our 21st annual Pennsylvania's Day At the Races at Parx is just around the corner and YES, it's in person! The event will take place on Monday, August 23 and will again include $1,000,000 in purses and our regular luncheon. Thanks to another generous donation by the NTRA, we will again raffle off a John Deere Gator. Get your tickets online now or from the Turning for Home office at Parx. The day will honor and celebrate the breeding industry in Pennsylvania, as well as provide the chance for some top-notch horses to showcase their talents in our five $100,000 stakes: the Banjo Picker Sprint for 3 & up at six furlongs; the Storm Cat for 3 & up at a mile and a sixteenth; the Marshall Jenney Handicap for sprinters 3 & up at five furlongs on the turf; the Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial for fillies and mares, 3 & up, at six furlongs; and the Mrs. Penny for fillies and mares, 3 & up, at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. A 25 percent PA-sired bonus will again be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in all stakes. We can't wait to see you on August 23.

As a reminder, the annual Stallion and Breeding Farm Directory will be published in December. Forms will be mailed and emailed to our stallion owners and domicile farms in September to have your information listed in the directory. Don't miss out on this free service!

Please remember, for the foal crop of 2022, broodmares must be in the state by Dec. 1, 2021, or within 14 days of a public sale (within 60 days of a sale outside the U.S.) or breed back to a PA-Sire. We ask that you submit all broodmare domicile forms online. We will let everyone know when the new form is available.

PENNSYLVANIA's DAY at the RACES

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2021 PA-BRED STAKES SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, APRIL 27 PARX RACING	**$100,000 PAGE MCKENNEY HANDICAP** 3 & up, 7 furlongs 1st - Wait For It, 2nd - Chilly in Charge, 3rd - Breezy Gust	**$100,000 UNIQUE BELLA STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 7 furlongs 1st - Chub Wagon, 2nd - Promised Storm, 3rd - Ujjayi
FRIDAY, MAY 28 PENN NATIONAL	**$100,000 LYPHARD STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 1/16 miles (off turf) 1st - Trolley Ride, 2nd - Midnight Obsession, 3rd - Discreetly Tough	**$100,000 WITH ANTICIPATION STAKES** 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles (off turf) 1st - Ravens Delight, 2nd - Chilly in Charge, 3rd - Saratoga Jack
TUESDAY, JUNE 22 PARX RACING	**$100,000 CROWD PLEASER STAKES** 3YO, 1 1/16 miles, turf 1st - Beren, 2nd - Like a Saltshaker, 3rd - Fire's Finale	**$100,000 POWER BY FAR STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 5 furlongs, turf 1st - Hey Mamaluke, 2nd - Precious, 3rd - Tara's Talent
MONDAY, JULY 19 PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS	**$100,000 MALVERN ROSE STAKES** 3YO fillies, 6½ furlongs	
MONDAY, JULY 26 PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS	**$100,000 PRINCESS OF SYLMAR STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 mile 70 yards	
TUESDAY, JULY 27 PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS	**$100,000 HARD SPUN STAKES** 3 & up, 1 mile 70 yards	
PENNSYLVANIA'S DAY AT THE RACES MONDAY, AUGUST 23 PARX RACING	**$100,000 BANJO PICKER SPRINT STAKES** 3 & up, 6 furlongs **$100,000 MRS. PENNY STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 1/16 miles, turf	**$100,000 MARSHALL JENNEY HANDICAP** 3 & up, 5 furlongs, turf **$100,000 STORM CAT STAKES** 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles **$100,000 DR. TERESA GAROFALO MEMORIAL STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 6 furlongs
MONDAY, SEPT. 13 PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS	**$100,000 FINEST CITY STAKES** 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs	**$100,000 MARK MCDERMOTT STAKES** 2YO, 6 furlongs
SATURDAY, SEPT. 25 PARX RACING	**$100,000 ALPHABET SOUP HANDICAP** 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf	**$100,000 PLUM PRETTY STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 1/16 miles
FRIDAY, NOV. 26 PENN NATIONAL	**$100,000 SHAMROCK ROSE STAKES** 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs	
TUESDAY, DEC. 7 PARX RACING	**$100,000 PENNSYLVANIA NURSERY STAKES** 2YO, 7 furlongs	

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

June 2021

Parx Around the Ovals

June 12th, 2021 - Informative (*Bodemeister - Lucky Black*, by *Hard Spun*) won the $150,000 Grade III Salvator Mile Stakes at Monmouth Park after running down *NY Traffic* in the final furlong with jockey **Jose Ferrer** aboard, for trainer **Uriah St. Lewis** and owner **Trin-Brook Stables, Inc**. overcoming incredible 79-1 odds.

June 13th - The undefeated PA-Bred *Chub Wagon* (*Hey Chub - Takin the Plunge*, by *Lion Heart*) won the $100,000 Shine Again Stakes at Pimlico after a determined fight to the finish against rival *Hello Beautiful* with jockey **Jomar Torres**, for trainer **Guadalupe Preciado** and owners/breeders **Daniel J. Lopez** and **George Chestnut**. *Chub Wagon* is now undefeated 7-7.

Turning For Home Day at Parx - June 22nd, 2021

Homebred *Beren* (*Weigelia - Silmaril* by *Diamond*) won the $100,000 PA-Bred Crowd Pleaser Stakes taken off the turf at 1 1/16-mile with jockey **Frankie Pennington** for trainer **Butch Reid**, owners/breeders **Dr. Christopher J. Feifarek** and **Susan Quick** by taking the lead under a nice hold, drawing off to win by 9 1/2 lengths against rival *Like a Saltshaker*. His dam *Silmaril* is a multiple-graded stakes winning millionaire for the connections.

Hey Mamaluke (*Jump Start - Pu Dew*, by *Lucky Lionel*) won the $100,000 Pennsylvania Bred Power by Far Stakes going 5 furlongs that came off the turf at Parx Racing for trainer **Patricia Farro** and owner/breeder **Joseph Capriglione** against fast closing favorite *Precious* by 1 3/4 lengths. *Hey Mamaluke* showed she was impressive off the layoff giving jockey **Silvestre Gonzalez** his 1st stakes victory.

A rare dead heat with *Enough Love* (*He's Had Enough - Perfect Love*, by *Not For Love*), ridden by jockey **Wesley Torres** for trainer **Jennie Wilhelm-Saldana** and owner **Carlos E. Caban** and *Atina Salsa* (*Two Step Salsa - Sleeping Bird*, by *Strong Hope*), ridden by jockey **Roberto Rosado** for trainer/owner **Jaime Bravo-Estrada** created lots of excitement in the $75,000 Turning For Home Day Starter Handicap for fillies and mares.

Thundershook (*Super Saver - Song Cat*, by *Unbridled's Song*) won the $75,000 Turning For Home Day Starter Handicap for three-year-olds and upward with jockey **Paco Lopez** after a long stretch battle against *Thorny Tale* for trainer **Jamie Ness** and owners **Run to Win Stables** and **Jagger Inc.**

PTHA Peeks

June 1st, 2021 - Shooger Ray Too (*Wicked Strong - Caftan*, by *Awesome Again*) came back after a lay-off following a strong third in the Stud Muffin Stakes at Aqueduct in March to win the $45,000 Allowance (NW1 X) with a strong rally by a head over *Bouncing Around* with jockey **Kendrick Carmouche** for trainer **J. Tyler Servis** and owner **Vintage Thoroughbreds LLC.**

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PTHA Trophy Race Winners

Date	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	Owner
6-2-21	Monaco Princess	Ruben Silvera	Jamie Ness	Morris Kernan, Jr. & Jagger Inc.
6-9-21	Rebel Traveller	Julio Correa	Carolyn Bradford	Four Winds Ranch
6-16-21	Catti La Belle	Julio Correa	Randy Allen	Club Risque Stable & Gregory Quick
6-23-21	Stand Up Comic	Frankie Pennington	Robert Reid, Jr.	Cash Is King LLC & LC Racing LLC
6-30-21	Lulinda's Heart	Angel Castillo	Uriah St. Lewis	Trin Brook Stables, Inc.

June 7th - PA-Bred *Golden Candy* (*Goldencents - Be My Candy*, by *Candy Ride*) won the tough $48,000 Allowance Race against rival *Admiral Abe* with jockey **Paco Lopez** for Delaware Park based trainer **Anthony Pecoraro** and owner **A. Delaperriere Stables** going 5 1/2 furlongs.

June 15th - Screen Saver (*Albert the Great - Touch Screen*, by *Bandini*) won the $25,000 Starter Optional Claiming race going 7 furlongs with jockey **Silvestre Gonzalez** aboard, for trainer **Scott Lake** and owners **Home Team Stables** and **Rich Ciavardone** after a close finish against *Hollywood Jet*.

June 15th - Fried Rice King (*Bernardini - Super Espresso*, by *Medaglia D'oro*) and jockey **Adam Bowman** did it again for trainer **John S. McCaslin** and owner **Forgotten Man Racing, Inc.**, winning the 7 furlong $8,000 Claiming race, making this the second win in a row for this duo.

June 15th - Jockey **Frankie Pennington** rode the incredible *Magic Michael* (*Dramedy - Bear All*, by *Kitalpha*) to his 6th victory in his last 8 starts in the $48,000 Allowance race for trainer **Jamie Ness** and owners **Morris E. Kernan, Jr.**, **Yo Berbs**, and **Jagger Inc.**, going 1 mile and 70 yards.

June 15th - *Jamminwithbrandon* (*Stay Thirsty - Baltic Flier*, by *Fusaichi Pegasus*) earned 3 consecutive wins in a row after his victory in the $29,000 Starter Optional Claiming race, going 1 mile and 70 yards with jockey **Frankie Pennington** for trainer **Harold Wyner** and owner **Ted Hoover**.

June 16th - Heavy favorite *To a T* (*Uncaptured - Striking T*, by *Smart Strike*) won the $45,000 Allowance Optional Claiming race after a stumble at the break with jockey **Frankie Pennington** aboard, finishing strong for Gulfstream Park based trainer **Saffie A. Joseph, Jr.** and owner **Shooting Star Thoroughbreds, LLC**, going 6 1/2 furlongs.

June 16th - PA-Bred *Philadelphia Belle* (*Jump's Start - Cam's Cousin*, by *Silver Deputy*) won gate to wire in the 6 1/2 furlong $35,000 Allowance race with jockey **Silvestre Gonzalez** for trainer **Kate DeMasi** and owner/breeder **Nick Polydoros**.

June 22nd - The Jones Boy (*Smarty Jones - Mohonour*, by *Honour and Glory*) won their second race in a row out of 3 lifetime starts with jockey **Frankie Pennington** for trainer **John C. Servis** and owner **Someday Farm** in the 1 mile $35,000 Turning For Home Day Allowance Race.

June 23rd - PA-Bred *Appealing Future* (*Successful Appeal - Untangled*, by *Unbridled*) earned his fourteenth lifetime win for trainer **Philip Aristone** and owners **Len Roseman** and **Jack Armstrong** after an amazing performance in the $25,000 Claiming race with jockey **Angel Castillo** going 6 1/2 furlongs.

June 23rd - Nobiz Like Jetbiz (*Fed Biz - Angel's Flight*, by *Rock Hard Win*) gives trainer **Paul Conrad** and owner **Keep It Simple Stable** an emotional win in the 1 mile and 70 yards $7,500 Claiming race (NW4 L) with jockey **Julio Correa**, giving these connections their first win after a long dry spell.

June 23rd - Our PA-Bred 2020 Outstanding Claim *Admiral Abe* (*Midshipman - Precious Penny*, by *Harlan's Holiday*) and jockey **Silvestre Gonzalez** came back for another big win in the $48,000 Allowance race for trainer **Robert Mosco** and owner **Stefcon Racing**, going 5 1/2 furlongs.

Catch PTHA Peeks with Dani Gibson during Parx Live Racing!
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South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2021

Racing Across the Nation

Between the dates of May 20 through June 20, seven graduates of South Carolina training centers and farms crossed the finish line first in Stakes races.

On May 22, Get Smokin, who went through the breaking process under the watchful eye of Donna Freyer at her Custom Care operation in Camden, broke on top and never looked back in the Seek Again Stakes at Belmont Park. In front by a length after the opening half-mile, this gelding held sway crossing the finish line a length in front. This was his third stakes victory.

At Canterbury Park May 27 in the Minnesota H.B.P.A. Distaff, Best Kept Secret was not a secret to the betting public. As the heavy favorite, she led gate to wire. Quickly opening up by a couple of lengths in the stretch while being challenged, she was able to hold on to win by a head. Best Kept Secret came up through Randy and Kala Rentz's program in Ehrhardt.

It's a Gamble proved to be a good gamble for bettors at Monmouth Park May 28. A graduate of Travis Durr's Webb Carroll Training Center, It's a Gamble captured the Jersey Derby by 1¾ lengths. Racing mid-pack for the opening half-mile, this 3-year-old colt took command in the stretch.

On May 30, the former Rentz pupil Beren won his second stakes in a row, finishing first in the Paradise Creek Stakes at Belmont Park. He was coming off of a victory in Belmont Park's Gold Fever Stakes May 9. Beren quickly proved much the best in the Paradise Creek, jumping out to an early lead and never being threatened as he crossed the finish line 10¾ lengths in front.

River Dog, another graduate of Travis Durr's program, proved best in the Mike Lee Stakes at Belmont Park May 31. River Dog stalked the leader from the outside to the quarter pole. He then took control quickly, opening up with a 30length advantage. He maintained his lead inside the eighth pole and finished up 1¾ lengths in front. River Dog is undefeated in two career starts.

The popular Webb Carroll Training Center standard bearer, Firenze Fire, struck again in the True North Stakes-G2 at Belmont Park June 4. Challenged throughout, Firenze Fire would not be denied, drawing clear late to win by 1½ lengths as the even-money favorite. This year he has won both the Runhappy Stakes and True North Stakes-G2 for the second time. In 33 career starts, Firenze Fire has 14 wins, four seconds and three thirds while collecting $2,484,350.

Valued Notion, who went through the breaking process with Cary Frommer in Aiken, proved best in the Ben's Cat Stakes at Pimlico June 13. In this 5-furlong sprint, Valued Notion was second early before taking the lead on the turn and coasting home 2 lengths in front. He has won three of four starts this year.

Racing returns to South Carolina

On Saturday, May 22, racing returned to South Carolina as The Carolina Cup was held at Springdale Race Course in Camden in front of approximately 20,000 fans. Five races took place over hurdles with the final race being a training flat event.

The feature for the day was the $35,000 Carolina Cup run over 2⅛ miles over National Fences. Keystone Thoroughbreds' Noah And The Ark (Ire) took the lead at the final fence from SCTOBA member Mark Buyck's Show Court (Ire) and drove to a 3-length victory. Noah And The Ark is trained by Todd McKenna and was ridden by Harry Bestwick. This was the first time Bestwick had ridden in a National Steeplechase Association race.

The opening event, a maiden claiming hurdle race, was captured by the team of owner Beverly Steinman, trainer Doug Fout and rider Barry Foley. The winner, Be Somebody, had gone to the post 11 times previously without finding the winner's circle but would not be denied this time. He won by 1¼ lengths.

In the second race, a maiden hurdle for fillies and mares, Paddy Wears Prada proved best wearing the silks of owner Anne Kinsley's South Branch Equine LLC. She is trained by Mark Beecher and was ridden by Sean McDermott and crossed the finish line 2 lengths in front.

The first division of the maiden hurdle for the boys was won by Mini P (Ire). Owned by SCTOBA member Pierre Manigault's Hurricana Farm and trained by SCTOBA Board member Arch Kingsley, Mini P was making his debut in a National Steeplechase Association race. Mini P took commend after a mile and held off all challengers hitting the wire three-quarters of a length in front. He was ridden by Jamie Bargary.

Bruton Street-US' Ziggle Pops (GB) was much the best in the second division of the maiden hurdle race. Ziggle Pops made his move with one fence remaining and drew off in the race to the wire winning by 6¾ lengths. He is trained by Jack Fisher and was ridden by Graham Watters.

Arch Kingsley, the meet's leading trainer, rode Richard Colton's Seeking Albert, the winner of the finale, a training flat race.

All of the hurdle races were contested at 2⅛ miles over National Fences.

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SOUTH CAROLINA-TRAINED WINNERS

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Concealed Carry	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/20/21	Woodbine	Maiden Special Weight
Lashes	Aiken - Cary Frommer	6/20/21	Prairie Meadows	Maiden Special Weight
Exult	Kirkwood Stables	6/19/21	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Blinkers	McCutchen Training Center	6/19/21	Prairie Meadows	Allowance
Badgeri Candy	Elloree Training Center	6/19/21	Louisiana Downs	Allowance
Sousa	Aiken-Legacy Stable	6/19/21	Monmouth Park	Allowance
Love Enough	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/18/21	Belterra Park	Maiden Special Weight
Shesawildjoker	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/18/21	Belmont Park	Maiden Special Weight
Catti La Belle	Rentz Training Center	6/16/21	Parx Racing	Starter Allowance
Crossthebay	Aiken - Poplar Place	6/16/21	Mountaineer Casino	Maiden Special Weight
My Boy Paddy	Aiken - Poplar Place	6/16/21	Penn National	Allowance
Saint Marco	Aiken-M. Alexander	6/16/21	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
Doubleornothing	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/16/21	Belmont Park	Allowance
Allure Fortune	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/14/21	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Cobble Road	Rentz Training Center	6/14/21	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Edie Meeny Miny Mo	Aiken - Cary Frommer	6/13/21	Pimlico	Allowance
VALUED NOTION	Aiken - Cary Frommer	6/13/21	Pimlico	Ben's Cat S
Time Leverage	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/12/21	Churchill Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Another Time	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/12/21	Woodbine	Allowance
Irish Unity	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/12/21	Lone Star Park	Maiden Special Weight
Malloy	Elloree Training Center	6/12/21	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Law of the Land	Aiken - Legacy Stable	6/12/21	Delaware Park	Waiver Maiden Claiming
Shamrocket	Elloree Training Center	6/11/21	Belmont Park	Allowance
Live Fire	Rentz Training Center	6/11/21	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
Galactic	Kirkwood Stables	6/10/21	Thistledown	Allowance
Mine My Time	Elloree Training Center	6/10/21	Canterbury Park	Allowance
Izzybella	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/9/21	Delaware Park	Waiver Maiden Claiming
U Guys Are No Fun	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/9/21	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Run for Boston	Elloree Training Center	6/9/21	Finger Lakes	Allowance
The Jones Boy	Rentz Training Center	6/9/21	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Lord Winsalot	Rentz Training Center	6/9/21	Penn National	Allowance
Queen Bess	McCutchen Training Center	6/8/21	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Rigged Up	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/7/21	Thistledown	Allowance
Hannah Dances	Rentz Training Center	6/7/21	Finger Lakes	Allowance
New Roo	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/5/21	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Gio Dude	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/5/21	Charles Town	Allowance
FIRENZE FIRE	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/4/21	Belmont Park	True North S-G2
Eight Ain't Enough	Elloree Training Center	6/4/21	Belterra Park	Allowance
Walk Away Joe	Elloree Training Center	6/4/21	Pimlico	Starter Allowance
Likeyouonlyprettier	Rentz Training Center	6/4/21	Penn National	Allowance
Volkert	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/3/21	Belmont Park	Maiden Special Weight
Shape of You	McCutchen Training Center	6/3/21	Indiana Grand	Starter Allowance
Continuation	McCutchen Training Center	6/3/21	Churchill Downs	Maiden Special Weight
After the Party	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/3/21	Belmont Park	Maiden Special Weight
Ego	Aiken - Cary Frommer	6/3/21	Indiana Grand	Starter Allowance
Amazing Gal	Elloree Training Center	6/2/21	Indiana Grand	Allowance
Harrison Knows	Rentz Training Center	6/2/21	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Strum and Pluck	Aiken - Legacy Stable	6/2/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
RIVER DOG	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/31/21	Belmont Park	Mike Lee S
Gringotts	Rentz Training Center	5/31/21	Finger Lakes	Allowance
BEREN	Rentz Training Center	5/30/21	Belmont Park	Paradise Creek S
Doubleoseven	Aiken - Cary Frommer	5/29/21	Pimlico	Allowance
Onenightstandards	McCutchen Training Center	5/28/21	Santa Anita	Allowance
IT'S A GAMBLE	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/28/21	Monmouth Park	Jersey Derby
Cindy's Prayer	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/28/21	Pimlico	Waiver Claiming
Jasiri	Aiken - Cary Frommer	5/28/21	Prairie Meadows	Allowance
Gianna's Gift	Elloree Training Center	5/27/21	Churchill Downs	Allowance
BEST KEPT SECRET	Rentz Training Center	5/27/21	Canterbury Park	Minn. HBPA Distaff S
Bad News	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/26/21	Assiniboia Downs	Allowance
Miss Gold Medalist	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/26/21	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Literally	Rentz Training Center	5/26/21	Penn National	Allowance
Dixie Drawl	Elloree Training Center	5/25/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
Hannah Dances	Rentz Training Center	5/25/21	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Midnight Warship	Aiken - Cary Frommer	5/25/21	Thistledown	Maiden Special Weight
Still Having Fun	Aiken - Cary Frommer	5/25/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
Repeated Promise	Aiken - Cary Frommer	5/25/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
Rochambeau	Aiken - Cary Frommer	5/25/21	Indiana Grand	Maiden Special Weight
Mt. Suribachi	Rentz Training Center	5/24/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
Ian Glass	Elloree Training Center	5/23/21	Santa Anita	Starter Allowance
Double Crown	Aiken - Cary Frommer	5/23/21	Gulfstream Park	Allowance
GET SMOKIN	Custom Care-D. Freyer	5/22/21	Belmont Park	Seek Again S
Dealing Justice	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/20/21	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Proper Storm	Aiken - Cary Frommer	5/20/21	Pimlico	Waiver Maiden
Sousa	Aiken - Legacy Stable	5/20/21	Pimlico	Allowance

VIRGINIA

Top Trainers To Compete at Colonial Downs With Minimum $500,000 In Daily Average Purse Monies

Anticipation is running high for the 2021 race meeting at Colonial Downs, which kicked off July 19 and continues through September 1, exemplified by the widespread participation of horsemen across the Middle Atlantic, Northeast, and Midwestern regions; and attracted by a strong average daily purse structure of $500,000 per day.

For its 21-day meeting — with all races televised on TVG — some of the nation's top stakes-winning trainers are scheduled to participate, including Ferris Allen, Bret Calhoun, Ignacio Correas, John Kimmel, Michelle Lovell, Graham Motion, John Ortiz, Dale Romans, Dallas Stewart, Mike Stidham, Michael Trombetta and Brendan Walsh.

"It's extremely gratifying to witness the overall enthusiasm and interest from these top trainers for this year's meeting," said Jill Byrne, Colonial Downs Vice President of Racing Operations. "We are proud to further our goal of maintaining a first-class racing and a stabling program, and to ensure that the highest standards of safety and integrity are administered for our horsemen and fans."

"We have a great mixture of horses and outfits from all over," added Racing Secretary Allison DeLuca. "We have a lot of Kentucky people and some from Florida. I think the competition might be tougher. I'm hoping we'll run more dirt races this year. Some people get it in their head there's only turf here, so I hope we can get some more dirt participation."

Mike Stidham, leading trainer at Colonial's 2019 and abbreviated 2020 meet, plans to have between eight and 10 horses rotating in and out of his barn including David Ross's Palio, who scored a maiden special weight win at New Kent last summer. Ross, who races under the stable name DAARS, Inc., is the all-time leading owner at Colonial Downs.

"I train for David, and he likes to focus on the Colonial meet and race as many of his horses as he can during that time," said Stidham, who had a Grade I win earlier this year with Mystic Guide in the Dubai World Cup. "The meet there is always fun."

Colonial's all-time leading trainer Ferris Allen returns with 30 stalls. "I always target the Colonial meet," he said. "The level of competition is going to better than it ever has. Nobody knows the lay of the land here as well as me, so hopefully that will be a help to us."

"We built a loyal following of owners, and handled their horses at Colonial over the years," said Allen. "But after being closed for six years, those folks weren't at the doorstep waiting for you when Colonial reopened in 2019. People had to move on so that first year back was like re-establishing a network. Last year, we planned to take a step forward, but the pandemic prevented that. So this year is almost like year one again in re-establishing that base."

The highlight of the stakes calendar will be the $250,000 New Kent County Virginia Derby (G3) for 3-year-olds and the $150,000 Virginia Oaks for 3-year-old fillies, both at 1 1/8-miles on Aug. 31. Closing day, the following afternoon, features five $100,000 Virginia-bred/sired stakes --- the Edward

P. Evans, Jamestown, Punch Line, Camptown and Brookmeade.

In addition to the minimum daily $500,000 purse structure, there will be added incentives for horsemen at Colonial, including:

- All owners who start a horse at Colonial Downs will receive the greater of $1,000 or their share of the purse money from the race.
- All trainers will receive $300 per horse started.
- Colonial Downs will offer free horse transportation originating from Fair Hill Training Center.

Colonial Downs is pleased to extend a $15 donation per starter to the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA), which will be matched by the VHBPA.

"It is our privilege to present a race meet of this caliber symbolizing the long-term potential for horse racing in Virginia," said John Marshall, Executive Vice President, Operations, Colonial Downs Group. "Fans on-track can expect a high level of service and quality despite economic challenges raised following the pandemic. Fans on-line and off-site can expect the highest level of wagering quality. We have all long awaited this day and are thrilled it has finally arrived at full capacity."

The Colonial Downs meet will continue through September 1 with racing every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 1:45 PM.

Rick Williams Begins New Position As Colonial Downs Safety OfficerPurse Monies

When Colonial Downs kicked off its summer race meet July 19, Rick Williams began his new role as Safety Officer and though there isn't a formal job description that includes his every duty, decades of experience in track operations and regulatory work will certainly come into play.

The new Mid-Atlantic Strategic Plan to Reduce Equine Fatalities lists 23 items that a Safety Officer is responsible for overseeing. The job is to ensure that all activities and practices involving the training and racing of horses at the track meet required safety standards and regulatory guidelines.

Among them are to monitor daily backside activities and practices in the barn area for compliance with therapeutic and race day medication regulations. Another is to make recommendations to track management and regulators to ensure the welfare of horses and riders and the integrity of racing.

Williams' diverse background in the sport made him a natural candidate for the job. Over the years, he has been a groom and jockey agent and has worked front side jobs in photo finish, mutuels, track maintenance and beyond. In the last 15 years of full-time work — he retired in 2012 — he held a regulatory position with both the Ohio and Kentucky Racing Commissions and was involved in in the Breed Development Fund of both.

"I learned something at every stop along the way," said Williams. "In regulatory roles, I served on a lot of committees that addressed rules, safety and medication issues. I really enjoyed that part of it — digging into the rule book and making changes that helped better the game."

Before accepting his latest position, Williams wanted to make sure safety of the horse was paramount in his role. Once he received that confirmation from Colonial's VP of Racing Operations, Jill Byrne, he accepted.

"Rick will be another set of eyes, watching horses in the barns, on the track, and reporting to track management with something that may not look up to our standards, the safety and integrity and care of horses and the horsemen that we expect," said Byrne. "He'll also work with Dr. Caruthers (VRC Equine Medical Director) in assisting her and her veterinary team as well as the stewards and racing office ."

"All I've known from day one is horse racing," Williams said. "Horsemen are 24/7. There aren't many jobs in today's world where you have to be as dedicated to your job as someone who works in horse racing. I have great respect for them and have great respect for the game. I consider myself a horseman, but a horseman who believes in the rule book."

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

Caption 1 - All 850 stall spaces in 14 barns are expected to be filled for the 2021 season in New Kent. VEA photo.

Caption 2 - Trainer Mike Tomlinson (middle) is bringing a full string of horses to Colonial from Churchill Downs for the first time. VEA photo.

Caption 3 - Rick Williams fills a new Safety Officer position at Colonial Downs this summer. VEA photo.

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Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter August 2021

The Browns' ambitious gamble

Trainer Ronney W. Brown's adventurous escapades at the claim box are well-documented, and his barn is no stranger to black-type social functions, but recently Ronney and wife Nicole adjusted their business strategy to include the purchase of a farm and acquisition of multiple stallions.

However, don't be fooled by Brown's calm exterior.

Inside the 'Gentle Giant' lies a fierce competitor, that has a burning desire to be number one on the training charts and challenge the elite in the local breeding industry.

Since arriving in West Virginia, the 60-year-old native of Frederick, Md., has waged an epic battle with perennial leading conditioner Jeff Runco.

With close to 45 head in Barn 2, Ronney continues to deliver more with less than most of his rivals, while maintaining a loyal crew, almost unheard of in today's volatile employment market.

Ronney and Nicole have been together since 2013, and officially tied the marital knot in 2019.

Her Marine Corps background has been a valuable resource in sanctioning long hours at the track, before transitioning to the farm for midday chores and late afternoon feeding.

Nicole's son, Zachary is the couple's right-hand man at their Pellinor Lane Farm and, according to his mother, is Bullsbay's best friend.

Ronney Brown discusses the expansion of the breeding side of the business. "Throughout my career I've bred a handful of mares, but my primary focus has always been the claiming game. Unfortunately, this has become a cutthroat business, with rival trainers attempting to poach away any worthwhile client."

Ronney and Nicole Brown with Grade 1 winner and stakes sire Bullsbay.

The last decade has seen the popular twosome witness the success of champion sires Fiber Sonde and Windsor Castle, and their exploits have them formulating a similar plan of attack.

Ronney says, 'You can't consistently get a good horse without breeding one. So, if I can't claim my way into an allowance race, I will breed my way in."

With the addition of a farm, the Browns now have adequate resources to pursue their dream. They've relocated stallions Bullsbay and Vorticity to West Virginia and the response has been favorable.

Nicole is a staunch advocate for further expansion, while Ronney admits having control over every aspect of a foal's life from day one is desirable.

"We have approximately 30 mares at the farm, including 21-year-old Original Gold (two-time Cavada Stakes winner) and Golden Debutante (Malibu Moon—Original Gold), mother to recent allowance winner Golden Key," he notes.

Bullsbay is a son of Tiznow out of The Hess Express, by Lord Carson, who accounted for $923,245 during a five-year career on the track.

His memorable achievements include wins in the Whitney Handicap-G1, Alysheba Stakes-G3, Harrison E. Johnson Handicap and second-place endeavors in the Hal's Hope Stakes-G3, John B.

Campbell Handicap and Sussex Handicap.

A prestigious third place effort, behind the indomitable Rachel Alexander, in the Woodward Stakes-G1 further amplifies his desirable status.

"I was especially glad to get my hands on Bullsbay, because his trainer Graham Motion is universally recognized for good judgment and attention to detail," says Ronney. "At 17 years old, Bullsbay's legs are sound and he possesses a wonderful disposition."

So far with a limited number of his foals on the ground, Ronney and Nicole are thrilled.

Ronney notes, "They are correct individuals and from a racing perspective should handle any distance."

Current 3-year-old Maythehorsebwithu is probably the best known progeny of Bullsbay to date. Mid-Atlantic followers easily recognize this *Star Wars* play on words winner, trained by emerging star Brittany Russell.

Russell, a former protege of Brad Cox, is on a meteoric rise since striking out on her own in 2018.

Maythehorsebwithu, purchased as a yearling by Michael Dubb for $55,000, won the Miracle Wood Stakes this past February and exhibited ultra gameness as runnerup in the $100,000 Private Terms Stakes.

"I love a horse that has speed and stamina," says Ronney. "At one-time Bullsbay was the only son of leading sire Tiznow standing in the Mid-Atlantic. He also holds the distinction of setting the 1-mile track record at Del Mar. He is on course to covering over 40 mares this season."

On June 10, breeders James and Lisa Boyer watched their homebred Tizbit turn back a fine field of maiden special weight horses by a decisive 7-length margin. The chestnut filly by Bullsbay out of Bit of Brass, by Dixie Brass, looked like a chiseled piece of granite in the paddock and comfortably ran to her odds of 2-5.

In seven career outings, Tizbit has one win, two seconds and two thirds with earnings totaling $37,000.

"This filly is exactly what Nicole and I aspire to breed," adds Ronney. "Nowadays, it's unrealistic to try and purchase a West Virginia-bred. The cost is prohibitive and availability is limited. The development program here is robust, add in the double conditions clause and literally a $20,000 horse is worth $40,000."

Romney hailed Unrideabull as another serious example of Bullsbay's prowess.

The quirky bay gelding owned and trained by Mike Sterling has compiled a solid 33 percent career win ratio.

Victories in the Henry Mercer Memorial, Robert G. Leavitt and Frank Gall Memorial establish him as a crack sprinter, with over $200,000 in lifetime earnings.

Drawing on his history of utilizing every possible resource available to him, Ronney is especially fond of a foal by Bullsbay out of Top Pick (by Outflanker).

Nicole recalls: "When the time came to retire Top Pick, our interest focused on the strength of her dam, Shes Pretty Fancy. The hard knocker won over $140,000 for Tim and Judy Grams and she produced West Virginia Lottery Breeders Classic winner Fancy Concho. The future is unknown, but if we continue to spread out it will be with stallions that have proven performances on the racetrack."

Adds Ronney, "That's why potential breeders better not overlook Vorticity. This son of Distorted Humor was a very consistent runner that earned close to $350,000. He should be a perfect sire for our speed favoring Charles Town surface. Nicole and I don't have unlimited funds, like some of our contemporaries, but what we do have is each other and a willingness to put in long hours to achieve our goal."

Take a farm named for an Arthurian legend, sprinkle in the vision of an eternal optimist and add the dedication of one serious Marine and the possibilities appear fruitful.

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The secrets behind six decades of Steinman success

Owner-breeder has always had a penchant for a fast filly, and it continues to pay off on the racecourse

By Betsy Burke Parker

All through her six decades of steeplechase involvement, Peggy Steinman herself has hardly changed. She's almost ageless – timeless fashions usually in line with her kelly green and pink silks, perfectly coifed with an elegance that hearkens back to her Main Line upbringing cotillion.

But just as much, the longtime National Steeplechase Association board member and executive officer is enthusiastically ambassador for change, promoting safety and expansion and championing one of jump racing's most natural additions a few years ago – the NSA's distaff hurdle division.

The longtime Pennsylvania resident is in the top 20 all-time sport leaders with $1.5 million in earnings since 1970. In 1991, Steinman was recognized with the Ambrose Clark Award, and NSA director of racing Bill Gallo dedicated the 2019 NSA yearbook to her.

"Never with an intent to draw attention to herself," Gallo wrote, Steinman has given back to the sport "always with the hope that steeplechasing would benefit.

"NSA has been the beneficiary of her passion and kindness for a long time, and her impact will be felt forever."

Though she says she's not driven by a particularly feminist consciousness, Steinman is one of the sport's leading ladies, possessing an uncompromising intellect and the levelheaded mien required of a woman in a male-dominated sport. She's blunt and direct, soft-spoken with an iron resolve.

Peggy Steinman *©Tod Marks*

Steinman says she came about it naturally.

Her ancestor Christian Frederick Steinman was born in Dresden, Germany in 1711. He immigrated to America in 1749. The Steinmans settled in south-central Pennsylvania by the early 1800s.

Christian's great-great grandson Andrew Jackson Steinman started a family legacy in newspapering when he became publisher of the Lancaster Intelligencer in 1866. His sons John Frederick and James Hale – Peggy's father – took over the broadsheet in 1917. In 2010, Peggy Steinman took over as chair of Steinman Enterprises, the family's publishing and business group.

The family estate, the colonial revivalist Conestoga House, had been purchased and refurbished by her father Hale in 1927. Conestoga House was originally a tavern on the Conestoga wagon trail, along Conestoga Creek a couple miles out of town.

Steinman got her first pony when she was 4, and the historic house played a starring role.

Hale Steinman was a master of surprises, Steinman says of her creative and fun-loving father. He secretly set up a makeshift, temporary stall in the formal first-floor library late on Christmas eve, 1938, lining it deeply with golden straw and sneaking his youngest daughter's gift into the house.

"I came down that morning, and there was a pony in the library," Steinman recalls having an equal measure bewilderment and excitement. Black-and-white pinto "Skippy" became her constant companion the next few years, and it cemented a lifelong love for horses.

An advantaged upbringing didn't mean things were handed to her: Steinman got her first paying job at 6, operating the elevator at the family newspaper's five-story West King Street building, within the scope of the pre-schooler. She was paid $1 per week, and the duty taught Steinman "the importance of always doing a good job," she says

Steinman went to Foxcroft in Middleburg, Virginia, riding with the Middleburg Hunt with school founder, Miss Charlotte Haxall Noland, and hunting in Pennsylvania when home on breaks.

She studied at Mount Vernon Junior College in Washington, D.C., returning to Lancaster to join the newspaper staff in the

mid-1950s. She wrote a political column and helped run the business. Steinman started riding with trainer Eggie Mills in Pennsylvania, through him meeting judge and trainer Paul Fout at a horse show in the early 1960s.

Trainer Paul Fout managed Steinman's jump and flat horses until his death in 2005 Mills and Fout had initially encouraged Steinman "to get a racehorse," she recalls designing her silks using her "favorite colors," kelly green with pink sash.

Steinman's first jump starter was a winner, the Fout-trained Dream Spirit winning for rider Noel Twyman at Richmond's old Deep Run Races in 1970. She won with one of her first major track starters, too, Dauncy – a handicap at Belmont Park. Her Chrisaway won the 1972 Bernard Baruch at Saratoga and the Del Mar Handicap in California.

She was named to the NSA (then NSHA) board in 1977 by then-president George Strawbridge Sr., and she's been an accredited steward. She stepped back from the NSA board last year, but in addition to helping run the Middleburg Spring Races, Steinman stays involved on an advisory committee at the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center. She was presented the Distinguished Service Award by the EMC in 2010.

Phipps-bred Chrisaway, a son of Herbager won over hurdles (after a stellar flat career) at first asking at Tanglewood in April 1975, winning his next outing at Virginia Gold Cup and capturing the spring finale, the National Steeplechase at Fair Hill. Chrisaway was twice-placed that summer in handicap company at Delaware Park and won the Midsummer Handicap at Monmouth in his final start. *©Jim Rafferty/NSA Archives*

The hidden Steinman

Doug Fout first met Peggy Steinman in 1963. He was 5.

Then, as now, Fout calls her "Aunt Peggy."

Peggy Steinman and Doug Fout
©Douglas Lees

When he was 6, he accidentally almost ended the relationship.

Literally.

"Aunt Peggy was taking me and (sister) Nina to town to get ice cream. She has this fancy new station wagon. She parked at the top of the hill at my parents' place when we got back.

"Everybody got out and went inside, but I stayed out there, playing around in the car. I climbed over in the seat and was pretending I was driving and put it in gear.

"Oh my god that car ran down the hill and practically jumped the stone wall down at the bottom. Good thing it got caught on a tree or I would have ended up in the river.

"Only thing I got was a scratch. Poor Peggy. Fortunately, that's one of those things we can laugh about today."

Steinman's forgiving nature showed, again, a decade later when Fout made his first hurdle start at the 1975 Virginia Gold Cup. He was on her veteran handicapper, Dauncy.

Fout was 16. He remembers the fateful day at the old Broadview course.

"Dad always told me to look between the horse's ears, don't get in trouble and don't get in anybody's way," Fout says. "So I'm between (horses) heading to that last hurdle down the hill. The hurdle is set straight, but the beacon was way down on the left.

"Next thing you know the horse has sliced the turn – he knew the course, of course (fourth in the 1972 handicap there with Tom Skiffington) – and I'm flying through the air. I think he galloped the rest of the way with the field, crossed the wire in front, pulled himself up and jogged back to the barn.

"I walked back up the stretch like a whipped puppy dog. I was so embarrassed. Later, Aunt Peggy wrote me a letter saying 'Those things happen. Things will get better. No worries.'

"I've still got that letter. It meant a lot."

Dauncy's part in Steinman's story wasn't done: Paul Fout used him as a lead pony when he retired from racing.

"We were in Camden, and Miss Steinman was there and asked if she could come out with us (on horseback) to jog a set. My dad said Dauncy would be perfect. We'd jog three-quarters a mile, and the plan was for her to pull up and go over and stand with my father on the rail while we galloped.

"So, we're still jogging, and I look over and Dauncy is gone. Peggy's up there, no helmet, hunt saddle, her hair slicked back in the wind as that horse galloped around like he was in the stretch at the Colonial Cup. She's pulling and pulling, and that old goat is just a'rolling.

"My dad is over there about to have a heart attack. She gets him pulled up and jogs over with this big smile. 'I guess we should put him back in training.'

"It's funny now. It wasn't funny then."

Fashion Sense

Peggy Steinman was preppy before that even had a name – her 1960s-registered kelly green-and-pink silks prove it, though she's long followed the sartorial muse. Steinman operated the Devon Horse Show's largest clothes and jewelry boutique for more than 20 years, later opening the Showcase of Fashions in downtown Lancaster. She sold the store three years ago.

With regards to her famously recognizable coif – think Lady Bird Johnson meets Amy Winehouse, years ago Steinman says she "found what works" for her hairstyle, and she's stuck with the classic 'do. She attributes the trademark look to "a lot of hair spray" and a standing appointment with her hairdresser.

There's no secret to it, she stresses, though she does credit good genes. "My father had good hair."

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Looking Back

25 years ago

■ A presentation at the American Horse Council Convention on "selling the industry" by George Michael, a well-known sportscaster in Washington, D.C., and host of the syndicated *George Michael's Sports Machine*, prompted editor Tim Capps to look at marketing in the horse industry, and the multiple failed attempts, including advertising and promotions.

"Getting the attention of the prospective fan, or buyer, however, is only part one of the marketing mix," wrote Capps. "Good packaging and the ability to deliver a quality product are next in line, and the latter is the ultimate determinant of success. . .

"Whether it is a racetrack or a riding academy, the facilities and the products that would be presented to consumers in the 1990s would differ from their 1950s predecessors only by age."

His conclusion? "The challenge before us, as George Michael put it, is to understand that the first time buyer, whether a spectator or horse owner, is our most important customer. They must be presented with something that is understandable, something whose quality they can perceive and trust. That is marketing."

■ Northern Raja, a son of Raja Baba who stood his entire career at

Worthington Farms' longtime stallion Northern Raja saw his fortunes rise in the show horse world.

Worthington Farms in Glyndon, Md., was a hot commodity at age 18 as he was becoming known as one of the nation's premier sires of show hunters. The stallion's book more than tripled in 1996 after several of his sons and daughters—some of whom started out as failures on the racetrack—won championships at major shows and were sold or offered for sale at prices usually obtained by expensive summer sales yearlings.

■ Charlie Peoples, private trainer for Delaware-based breeder/owner Bayard Sharp for 52 years, announced his retirement. Among the many stakes winners developed by Peoples for Sharp were Maryland-bred champions Dixieland Band and Northrop.

■ "If there were a Maryland-bred claimer of the year title, the winner for 1996 would likely be the 5-year-old mare Gail's Brush, who has captured four stakes in a row, including [Monmouth's] Grade 3 Eatontown Handicap, and earned $162,600 since owner/trainer Edwin Broome haltered her for $40,000 [that February at Gulfstream Park]." The daughter of Broad Brush hadn't been off the board in eight starts that season, and for her career had 11 wins from 39 starts and $250,701 in earnings.

The streak was the finale of Gail's Brush's racing career after she fractured a sesamoid a month after her fourth stakes win and was retired. She was sold that fall at the Keeneland November sale for $150,000, and two of her first three foals were stakes horses, led by multiple graded stakes winner Aud, an earner of $485,623.

■ Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin selected as champion of the MHBA annual yearling show a filly by leading Maryland sire Caveat bred and owned by Richard Granville. Produced by the Northern Jove mare Northern Sting, the gray/roan filly was a full-sister to stakes winners Icy Warning and Ops Smile.

Named Northern Flair, she would place twice in stakes and produced stakes winner Learning as her first foal. Her dam, Northern Sting, was named Maryland Broodmare of the Year in 1995 and 1997, the second time for the accomplishments of Ops Smile in winning the Grade 1 Manhattan Handicap and Testing (by Deputed Testamony) winning the Congressional Handicap and placing in three stakes.

75 years ago

■ "The racing world is on the move and Maryland must move with it," noted Don Reed in response to competition from New Jersey's new tracks—Monmouth Park and Atlantic City. Adding in Garden State, New Jersey would have racing from June 1 through the end of October. Toss in Delaware Park and conflicts were inevitable. "The problem is not an easy one to solve, even if everyone connected with the turf in Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey was ready and willing to cooperate," wrote Reed. "Since such a whole-hearted support to any plan hardly can be expected, the problem therefore becomes even more difficult of solution."

■ Maryland Racing Commission chairman George P. Mahoney announced that effective Oct. 1, receiving barns must be used at all mile tracks in the state, despite horsemen's objections. Horses were required to report to the barn two hours before post time to "prevent any tampering" or other interference.

■ Humphrey Finney spent most of the summer on the road, with trips from Kentucky to Boston, New Jersey to Virginia. Along the way he stopped at two revered farms.

June 30. With Mr. and Mrs. Bruce S. Campbell I visited the Robert J. Waldens at Bowling Brook, in Carroll County (Md.), where Mr. Walden showed us three yearlings he is offering for private sale and the stallion War Hero, who looks as well as ever. It is depressing to look over a great place like Bowling Brook, that once was full of Thoroughbreds, and now has not 10 horses or three men, in place of 10 times the number of each. The great octagonal barn that Wyndham Walden built is almost empty, and the racetrack where once his son Robert J. Walden broke over 90 yearlings in a single season, is grown up with weeds. Thirty acres of hay has been cut and left lie in the fields for the lack of harvesters.

July 9. (On a trip through New Jersey) drove to the old Rancocas Farm, now Helis Farms, where we visited the owner (William Helis) and his farm manager, Elmo Shropshire, and had a look at some of the 100-odd mares and numerous stallions. . .

There was not time to see all the stock, but it is obvious that, slowly but surely, the old glory of the Rancocas of Lorillard, Sinclair and Hildreth is being revived. We saw Rancocas 25 years ago, when it hummed with activity and every barn was full. We saw it in the late 30s, when Grey Lag, Zev and a pair of Clydesdales were sole tenants of its 300-odd stalls, and now we have seen it again. It is as it should be now again.

10 years ago

■ George and Lori Hall of Rumson, N.J., struck paydirt with Ruler On Ice, the 25-1 longshot winner of the $1 million Belmont Stakes-G1; Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom finished sixth after a disastrous start; Preakness winner Shackleford tired to finish fifth.

Based in New Jersey with trainer Kelly Breen, the chestnut gelding by Roman Ruler, a $100,000 yearling sales purchase, was second in Pimlico's Federico Tesio Stakes in his previous start.

Owner Lori Hall escorts Belmont Stakes-G1 winner Ruler On Ice to the winner's circle as part of a colorful contingent that featured husband George Hall (far right), trainer Kelly Breen and jockey Jose Valdivia Jr.

The Halls had purchased their first horse only seven years earlier. Their powerful stable included another high-profile 3-year-old, homebred Pants On Fire (by Jump Start), winner of the Grade 3 Pegasus Stakes at Monmouth Park one week after the Belmont.

Ruler On Ice raced through May 2014, earned $1,709,566 and won only one stakes in his 23 starts. Pants On Fire raced for the Halls through September 2015 when he captured Charles Town's Wild and Wonderful for his eighth stakes win. From 34 starts in the U.S. he won or placed 24 times, hit the board in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile-G1, and earned $1,641,375. In 2018, he appeared in the entries in Saudi Arabia—at age 10 and 11 he made six starts in that country and never hit the board.

■ The Stronach Group regained sole ownership of the Maryland Jockey Club after acquiring MI Developments' racing and gaming assets, as well as the stake controlled by Penn National Gaming. "We are fully committed to ensuring the success and profitability of our strong portfolio of racing and gaming operations," said Belinda Stronach, president and CEO of The Stronach Group. "We also look forward to working with the horse racing industry and all of its stakeholders to ensure the long-term success and viability of the industry."

■ Family, friends and associates recalled the incomparable editor, writer and "elan vital" of *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*, Lucy Acton, who lost her battle with cancer at 63. She officially resigned from the magazine June 1 and died six days later.

■ Fox Hill Farm's two-time Grade 1 winner Havre de Grace remained perfect in three starts for the year when taking Delaware Park's Obeah Stakes-G3.

The millionaire daughter of Saint Liam maintained her position at the top of the NTRA's racehorse rankings. Owner Rick Porter was thrilled with the 4-year-old filly's most recent score: "Gabriel [Saez] gave her a hand ride throughout. It was a piece of beauty."

■ Maryland's pillar sire Two Punch was humanely destroyed at age 28. The son of Mr. Prospector was buried at Northview Stallion Station, the former Windfields Farm, in Chesapeake City.

Maryland's Stallion of the Year three times, Two Punch was the sire of 56 stakes winners at the time of his death, including 1997 Eclipse Award-winning sprinter and successful sire Smoke Glacken. His most recent stakes winner, Bold Affair, won the $200,000 Jostle Stakes at Parx two weeks earlier.

■ The late Edward P. "Ned" Evans was represented as the breeder of yet another Grade 1 winner when Buster's Ready galloped home a 4¼-length winner in Belmont Park's Mother Goose Stakes. In her previous start she was second to Royal Delta in the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes-G2 at Pimlico. The filly would be part of the Spring Hill Farm dispersal to sell at Keeneland in November.

Wertheimer et Frere bought her for $2.4 million, which equaled the fourth highest price of the dispersal. She was one of 12 Spring Hill fillies or mares to bring $1 million or more.

50 years ago

■ George Strawbridge Jr. got his first stakes win on the flat with the German-bred import *Wustenchef when the 6-year-old gelding won Delaware Park's Sussex Turf Handicap over One For All.

*Wustenchef came to the U.S. when Strawbridge was in search of a jumper and instructed his 30-year-old trainer Jonathan Sheppard to find one. Sheppard went to Europe in December 1969 and was shown four horses by a friend, priced $80,000, $40,000, $40,000 and $25,000. "*Wustenchef was the $25,000 horse," recalled Sheppard. "I liked him. Maybe I would have liked the others better if they hadn't been so expensive."

Shipped to Sheppard's home and training headquarters in Unionville, Pa., *Wustenchef, who had started exclusively on the flat in France, was a stakes winner over hurdles in 1970 and won two more hurdle stakes—the Indian River at Delaware Park and Meadowbrook at Aqueduct—with the Sussex sandwiched in between by late July. The gelding was a ninth generation descendent of the all-time great Hungarian mare Kincsem.

Strawbridge, who at the time owned a farm in Chesapeake City, Md., explained why the stable name was Augustin. Initially he attempted to have the name registered as "Augustine" after Augustine Herman, the man who originally surveyed the Chesapeake City area and made the first map of Maryland.

"But Mrs. [Allaire] duPont had registered a horse with The Jockey Club under that name. So they wouldn't approve the use of Augustine for our stable name. They said it would be all right, though, if we dropped the letter 'e' from the end of it."

Strawbridge bought his first racehorses in 1965, importing *George II and *Gaddo from England, with Sheppard making the purchases.

"Jonathan has been our one and only trainer ever since we got in the business," said Strawbridge. "People say I've used good judgment in buying horses. Obviously, this isn't true. Everything I've bought has been because of Jonathan's urgings. It is he who deserves the credit for everything."

Range Finder: In 1955, Mrs. Edwin Warfield and her 21-year-old horse Paddywhack rounded up cattle on her Howard County, Maryland farm.

Photojournalist A. Aubrey Bodine, who worked at the Baltimore *Sun* for 50 years – from 1920 until his death in 1970 – captured many scenes of Maryland horses, farms and racing. He was regarded worldwide as one of the finest pictorialists of the 20th century. *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* features his work in Past Time.

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